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REVIEWS

Travels round the Earth, through North Asia, &c.—[Reise um die Erde, &c.]—By Adolphe Ermann. Vol. II. Berlin. London, Black &

We have already made known to the English reader (see Athenæum, Nos. 484, 5, 6) the nar-rative of Ermann's journey as far as Obdorsk, at the mouth of the river Obi, and thence back to Tobolsk; a narrative full of life and reflection, equally various and instructive, and breathing a spirit at once cheerful and philosophical The second volume of his travels now lies before us, and fully justifies the high opinion we have already conceived of its author. Indeed, we were not without some fears that his account of his sojourn in European Russia, and of his visit to the Uralian mines, his descriptions of the Kirghiz, of the Ostyaks, and Tatars; his flight to the polar circle, and his interesting sketch of the life of an exile at Beresof, as detailed in his former volume, might, all grouped together, possibly shine with a brilliant variety injurious to the sobriety, and, as we feared, inevitable monotony of the succeeding part of his route. But our apprehensions happily prove to have been ground-less. M. Ermann's accomplished mind reflects fertility on whatever object he contemplates; his vigilant observation has, in a great measure, compensated the seeming uniformity of a Siberian winter; he has found everywhere enough to engage a rational curiosity; and as experience or the labour of the pen has corrected his Ger-man tendency towards prolixity and minuteness in trivial matters, his second volume pleases us altogether even better than his first.

Our traveller left Tobolsk on the 4th of January, which is about the time when the greatest cold usually occurs in Western Siberia, and, a day or two after the commencement of his journey, he painfully experienced the intensity of the cold, the skin peeling from his hand as he incautiously touched his instruments without a glove. Yet the hard condition of the snowy plains at this season, counterbalances, in the estimation of the Siberian traveller, the severity of the cold, which, indeed, may be guarded against, and is scarcely felt except when hurri-canes, caused by inequalities of temperature, sweep over the immense frozen plains, driving the snow in dense clouds before them. On the plains round the capital of Western Siberia, there is not a single stone to be found within the compass of a hundred miles. Let it not be supposed, however, that the sledge glides smoothly over this champaign bespread with its snowy carpet. The Siberian horses, in the snow, always tread in the footsteps of those which have preceded them, so that the road soon becomes worn into a series of ridges and furrows, over which, as the horses gallop along, the sledge bounds rudely, to the no slight inconvenience of the inexperienced traveller. It was in the most dreary part of these plains, about five days' journey from Tobolsk, that M. Ermann was obliged to retrace his steps in search of some of his philosophical instruments which were missing. He recovered them after all the efforts of the police in his behalf had proved unavailing; and to show himself grateful to the sentiments to which he appears to have owed the restoration of his property, he vowed a large candle to St. George, whom he had select-ed as his patron saint in Russia, and paid the priest of the village to burn it accordingly.

About 70 miles south-east from Tobolsk begin the steppes of Barabinsk, which are easily recognized in winter by the points of the tall reeds projecting from the snow like a young wood. In summer these marshy flats are rendered almost

those who dwell in or pass through the steppes to go closely veiled. The cattle escape these active tormentors only by being smeared with tar. The country has the same bleak appearance as far as Tomsk, in which town the breadth of the great road, and the wooden pillar having inscribed on it the distances from St. Petersburgh and Moscow, confirm the impression, says M. Ermann, made by almost every object on the way, that in Siberia travelling is more thought of than domestic life, and the high road more important than home. Our traveller conversed at a village on his way, with a peasant ninety-five years of age, who related that in his eighteenth year (1753) he was sent from Kasan, with other serfs belonging to the crown, who built the first habitations in those plains, which, from a complete desert, have become comparatively populous, by the continual arrival of exiles. These receiving allotments of land, soon learn, between independence and necessity, to retrieve their characters. The inhabitants of Tomsk still pride themselves on the share which their forefathers had in the conquest of Siberia, which event M. Ermann is disposed to rank among the most remarkable in the history of mankind, inasmuch, he observes, as the eighth part of the earth's surface was won in the course of eighty years. But the reader will easily perceive how much the splendour of this achievement depends on M. Ermann's mode of describing it, and how inaccurate it is to measure the difficulty or importance of a conquest by its superficial extent. The trade of Siberia, which, as was the case with the conquest of that country, is carried on almost wholly by individual enterprise, uninfluenced by government, appears to us more worthy of admiration, on account of the physical energy, and the great length and arduous character of the journeys with which it is prosecuted. The monotonous, barren aspect of the Siberian

ing the hills into the valley of that great river, our traveller saw before him with pleasure a varied and romantic landscape, with indications which the snow could not conceal, of a rich and fertile soil. The misty appearance at the bottom of the valley he found to arise from a violent west wind, which swept along the fine snow, and, originating in local causes, never rises to the summits of the adjacent hills. One effect of this prevalent wind is remarkable: it denudes the ground, and allowing the snow to accumulate only in sheltered ravines, greatly diminishes the facility of winter travelling except on the ice of the river. In Krasnoyarsk, at the junction of the Yenisei with the Kacha, and in the very heart of Siberia, about a thousand miles beyond Tobolsk, M. Ermann was gratified at finding most of the enjoyments of refined social life. The houses are of wood, gaily painted, and with glass instead of talc windows. The rich soil of the valley is sown in May, when the thaw is completed, and yields from eight to twelve fold of wheat and other grains. The abundance and variety of game here, as at Tobolsk, loads the table with luxuries. Of the good things peculiar to the place, our traveller particularizes only the Siberian wine, which is a weak bottled punch, agreeably flavoured with an infusion of wild berries. He also mentions with warm approbation a liqueur made with rose-leaves. In Krasnovarsk are several large collections of Siberian antiquities collected from the mounds or tombs called Kurgans. These relics of the former possessors of the land consist of arms and utensils

of various descriptions, mining instruments, or-

naments for the person, and metallic mirrors, which our author is disposed to compare with

similar mirrors still used by the Buraets, and to

wilds ceases at the river Yenisei. On descend-

ship. There is no reason to doubt that they

belong to a high antiquity.

On the last day of January M. Ermann left Krasnoyarsk, and on the night of the first of February travelled through a hilly country well clothed with wood, the temperature of the air being 35 degrees below zero. On the 2nd the mercury remained frozen the whole night, yet the traveller, wrapped in his Ostyak furs, experienced no inconvenience in his sledge. Indeed, the severe cold is never regarded by the Siberians as an imperfection in the climate of their native land, and while the thermometer stood at -30°, M. Ermann, having met a Russian officer on his way back to Europe, was amused at hearing the bystanders, as they emptied their bumpers in honour of the departing functionary, wish him with much earnestness, "a speedy re-turn to Siberia." The low temperature of winter does not appear to check the growth of the larch, which here attains a gigantic size, and formerly, according to the tradition of the Mongolian aboriginals, it was the only forest tree of the country; but now the birch, the predominating tree of the Russian woods, has spread itself also over extensive tracts of central Siberia; and this supplanting of the black by the white wood, is looked upon by the aboriginal Siberian tribes as a presage of their own extinction by the Russians.

In the middle of one of these newly-arisen birchwoods is situated the manufacturing town of Telma, consisting of two rows of log house erected on the sides of a log-road covered with smooth planks. A handsome stone church, in the Italian style, and spacious barracks, give the place an air of importance. But the workhouse of Telma is the wonder of Siberia.

It is with constantly increasing admiration (says M. Ermann) that one approaches the workhouse, a fabric of two stories, and which is, no doubt, the largest and finest specimen of architecture in North Asia. The front of it has a length of 364 feet, and is adorned with massive columns, between which, in two rows, are the windows, of the purest plate glass. The lower story is divided into three apartments, in which are carried on the manufacture of cloth. Above, dwell the officers who manage the institution, on the account of the crown. Stone warehouses, and mills of different kinds, are situated along the banks of the stream which drives the machinery of the workhouse. The advantages of the locality were discovered a century ago, by private speculators, since which time, Telma has been famous for its cloth manufactory. More recently, glass, paper, and linen have been added to its productions.

The inhabitants of Telma are about 2000 in number, of whom 800 find employment in the manufactories. They are persons exiled for crimes, but whose manners, nevertheless, are irreproachable in their new and more fortunate situation, in which they are neither pressed by want, nor goaded by despair. They are supplied gratuitously with meal, and receive besides an amount of wages, proportioned in each instance to the value of the labour.

The wool required for the manufactory at Telma is procured chiefly from the Buraets and Tungúses, who wander with their flocks over the southern borders of Siberia. The machinery for combing and spinning the wool was originally procured from England, and was afterwards made in Siberia, according to the English model, at one-fifth of the cost of the latter. Telma pro-duces annually about 50,000 yards of woollen cloth, and half that quantity of linen. former is sold at a price not exceeding half-acrown a yard. Among the causes operating to de-preciate it, one of the most influential is fashion. So decided a preference is given to European cloth, that nothing short of a very great saving in the price can reconcile the Siberian to the manufacture of his own country. Pains are taken, uninhabitable by myriads of flies, which compel | consider as monuments of the Buddhaistic wor- | notwithstanding this discouragement, to improve

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the wool, and in 1830 a flock of 480 Spanish sheep were driven from Moscow to Irkutsk; and, notwithstanding the length of the journey, and the plagues of the Barabinskian steppes, 300 of them reached their destination in safety.

Arrived in the capital of Eastern Siberia, our traveller thus expresses his satisfaction with the aspect of the place, and with its climate:—

The exterior of Irkutsk, and the mode of life of its inhabitants, appear, in the highest degree, agreeable, and have nothing to do with that stoicism and perverse delight in self-denial, of which a stranger may observe many examples in Tomsk, Tobolsk, and other towns of Western Siberia. During the whole period of my residence in this capital and its whole period or my resource in this capital and vicinity, (viz. from the 7th of February till the 19th of March,) the sky was constantly unclouded, and of a deep blue colour. The air possessed that peculiar purity which, in Germany, is to be observed only on the finest days in May, when the atmosphere is least loaded with vapour. The clear blue of the sky at Irkutsk may be better compared with that observable in the equatorial regions. At the beginning of February, the thermometer was, in the morning, often as low as -20°; and even at the end of the month it often descended to -2°, or two degrees below zero; but at the same time, the sun's beams were so bright and so peculiarly animating, that day after day one could not help being still cheated into the persuasion that spring was just about to burst forth. The cold was never distressing, and the wooden streets of the city were quite free from snow. The transparency of the atmosphere, and the vivid light, gave the surrounding landscape a peculiar charm, the distance losing its obscurity, and every colour glowing with the freshest brilliancy.

Yet in Irkutsk, so praised by our author for the brightness of its skies, the mean temperature of the year is somewhat below the freezing point. The dryness of the atmosphere, however, which lessens the quantity of snow precipated, has a tendency, no doubt, to abridge the winter, as well as to strip it of its gloom. The vegetation round Irkutsk is active and various. The Flora of the capital of Eastern Siberia is much more rich in species than that of Berlin, and unites the productions of the polar regions with those of warm climates. In the woods of Nerchinsk, the dwarf birch and the apricot are found together. In like manner, the animals belonging to widely different natural regions meet here, as upon a common and neutral frontier. In this neighbourhood, the Tungúses, mounted on reindeer, traffic with the Buraets, whose beast of burden is the camel; and the tiger from China encounters the bear from the icy sea. An analogous mixture in the social circle of Irkutsk is effected occasionally by the caprice or displeasure of the Czar, who now and then sends a company of distinguished officers to lead the fashions in the Siberian capital. The officer who was townmajor of Irkutsk at the time of our author's visit there, had filled the same post in Paris during the occupation of that capital by the allied armies. A company of Italian dancers also happened to be there at the time, and contributed to diversify the social scene, while exhibiting to the Siberians the graces of a soft climate.

But there was no want of amusements in Irkutsk at the season when M. Ermann resided there. The week preceding the strict fast of the Greek church is held as a kind of carnival: the sport of the Montagnes Russes, with mutual visits and treating with a kind of pancake (for meat is already forbidden), being then almost regarded as a religious duty. During Butter-week, as this glad period is called, the whole population of Irkutsk assembles every night on the frozen surface of the river Angará. Montagnes Russes, or sliding banks, about thirty feet high, are made of snow, with the slopes, down which the sledges are precipitated, terminating on the ice of the river. Poles stuck in the ice bear innumerable paper lanterns, of various shapes and

colours in the Chinese fashion, so as to illuminate completely the scene of merriment. The contentment and gaiety of the people of Irkutsk cannot fail to make an impression on the stranger who calls to mind how many of them are suffering expatriation for their offences. But when need and temptation are removed, when food and employment are provided for them, they easily submit to the gentle control of society, and are, in fact, reformed by increase of hap-piness. We are disposed to admit, that their improved circumstances will go far to explain the docility of the delinquent population of Si-beria; but inasmuch as M. Ermann says nothing of restraints, nor of a rigorous police, nor once alludes to that strict superintendence necessary, at the first, to regulate the habits of the vicious outcasts of society, we cannot help suspecting, that it is an obligation contracted by those who travel in the Russian empire under the auspices of the government, to see or describe nothing but the mild administration of a paternal authority, and the happiness resulting from it. Of the abundance of provisions in Irkutsk, it will be sufficient to remark, that beef costs but three halfpence a pound, flour tenpence a stone : game of every kind and fish are at a still lower rate.

That which most startles a stranger in the streets of Irkutsk, is to meet, in the middle of the continent, with the naval uniform, and loitering groups of seamen. He then learns, with surprise, that Lake Baikal is the station of a doughty fleet, consisting of a brig and a schooner, which are laid up during the winter in the Angará, not far above Irkutsk. The commander of this fleet is always a great hero in the eyes of the Siberians, who style him the admiral of the Baikal; and in the masquerade of the Butterweek, he was represented as the colleague of the hero of Navarino, and the follower of Charon. The navigation of Lake Baikal, in fact, is not without its perils. That great inland sea, 350 miles in length, with an average breadth of 50 miles, is, at some seasons, liable to squalls of indescribable violence. The waves of the lake, in stormy weather, sometimes run seven feet high, and the water is often agitated in the calmest weather. The naval commander of Lake Baikal convoys to the Angará the produce of the mines of Nerchinsk, and the tribute of furs collected on the eastern side of the lake. The vessels employed on the Baikal, in subservience to the great trade with China, are flat-bottomed barges, about 90 feet long, and carrying from 80 to 100 tons of goods. They are often a fortnight or more in crossing the lake, owing to the squalls and adverse winds, and run much risk, from the difficulty of finding anchorage, particularly at the close of the year, when the ice becomes compact. How speedily would steam remove all the difficulty of navigating the Baikal!

It was on the 12th of February that M. Ermann, seating himself in his sledge, set off to traverse the Baikal. His road lay along the ice of the Angará, which, higher up, however, was quite unfrozen, and flowed with a lively murmur, while the temperature of the air was 24 degrees below zero! It was a bright moonlight when our traveller first beheld the frozen surface of the lake ; four fiery horses were yoked abreast in his sledge, and, the moment the reins were loosened, they set off at full gallop, and completed the passage of the ice-a distance of thirty miles, in two hours and a quarter. The loud ringing of the ice beneath the simultaneous tramping of the horses hoofs, and the loud but muffled tone of its cracking, were the only sounds heard to disturb the tranquillity of the majestic scene. The cracks in the ice sometimes extend for miles, and are extremely dangerous when they first take place; but, in a few hours, the whole mass is again firmly bound together with new ice of a peculiar

colour and texture, owing, perhaps, to its sustaining a great pressure during its congelation. M. Ermann, in his return over the lake crossed one of those fissures, in which, on the preceding day, four horses in the yoke had fallen together, and were saved with difficulty.

Having crossed Lake Baikal, our traveller's route lay, for some time, along the ice of the Selenga, and then turned off southwards towards Kiachta and the frontiers of the Chinese Empire, which it was his object to visit. As he approached the point from which springs the active proached the point from which springs the active commerce of Eastern Siberia, he met more frequent and unequivocal proofs of its magnitude. Numerous caravans, of from fifty to a hundred sledges each, laden chiefly with tea, met him on the road. Here, near the principal focus of Russian trade, it was amusing to see, in every considerable village, the pillar recording the measured distance from the Russian capital. Thus in Targengues it was written Target. Thus, in Tarakanowa, it was written, "To St. Petersburgh, 5963 versts (3975 English miles). As Kiachta is 80 versts farther on, it is consequently farther from the Russian capital than from the centre of the earth. But, on the borders of the Mongolian deserts-the native land of the horse -distance is little cared for. As the road ascended, the atmosphere became still more dry, and the thermometer descended to -28°, a de gree of cold, which, in a moist climate, would be insupportable. Here M. Ermann first saw an encampment of the Buraets, and had an opportunity of observing the agreeable life of that nomade nation. His attention, however, had previously been often drawn to the Mongolian features, and handsome cultivated appearance of the Buraets, who resort to the market of drawn by oxen. The Buraets are, collectively, an opulent people, and very attentive to their dress. Their tents are roomy, and covered with double felt. Round them wander their flocks of sheep, their cows, their horses, and camels. In spite of their narrow oblique eyes, their brown complexion, and prominent cheek bones, the young women appeared handsome to our author. The Buraets have been, from time immemorial, famed workers in metal, and the workmanship of their goldsmiths, M. Ermann assures us, is hardly surpassed by that of the best European artificers. In the government of Irkutsk, the military service is performed wholly by the ab-original tribes: the Buraets contribute four regiments, of 600 men each, to which the Tungues add a fifth, of 500 men. The Buraet Cossacks are of great value on the frontier, not on account of their bows and scymitars, but as interpreters to carry on the intercourse with the Chinese. It appears that their language, as spoken in the neighbourhood of Irkutsk, is perfectly intelli-gible to the Manchús, or Mongols of China. M. Ermann conversed with a Russian gentleman. perfectly conversant with the language of the Buraets, and who had accompanied the Russian mission to Pekin.

He had remarked (says our author), that the Chinese have the same mild and pacific demeanour in their own country, as here on the frontier. But they showed an earnest anxiety that the Russian embassy should not, in anything, exceed the licence conceded to it; and, in particular, that it should not be accompanied "by a hair more" than the stipulated number of persons. The Russians took a guard of only fifty Cossacks, and no artillery, but only muskets, as these were thought sufficient to overawe the Chinese soldiers in case of need. The latter still give a preference to the cross-bow and arrows, which are their usual weapons. The Chinese have only matchlocks, and their gunpowder is much weaker than that of the Russians. The Russian merchants are not restrained from selling, to the Chinese, the fowling-pieces which are used in Siberia, but the latter have no desire for them.

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Kiachta, the famous border station of the two eatest empires in the world-namely, the Celestial Empire, and that of All the Russiasis situated about 200 miles south-east of Irkutsk, half way up the ascent to the Desert of Gobi half way up the ascent to the Desert of Goot.
The town is fenced round, and strictly guarded to prevent contraband traffic. The houses are well built, and handsomely painted; proofs of opulence offer themselves to the eye on all sides. Chinese merchants are seen pacing the streets demurely, in cloaks of black silk, and felt caps, in form like a crown, with a small tassel of red silk at the top, in the middle of which the officers and mandarins wear the button or precious stone which distinguishes their rank. At sunset they all hasten back to Maimachin, or the Chinese town, which is separated from Kiachta, or the marks the boundary of the two empires. Above the broad portal, through which the two towns communicate, is placed, facing the north, the Russian eagle. In spite of the wealth of Kiachta, the place has the grave and earnest appearance characteristic of all Russian towns; and, to a stranger passing through the gate which leads into Maimachin, the immediate change of scene appears like the work of enchantment.

A more striking contrast is nowhere to be found on the face of the earth. On the one side everything wears a sober appearance; on the other is such a display of bright colours and varnish, as rarely meets the European eye. The streets in Maimachin are made smooth with a hard ce-ment. The houses on both sides are plain plastered edifices, only one story high, and the flat roofs not being visible, it is only by the windows of Chinese paper that the stranger discovers that the walls on both sides are those of dwellings. They are covered over with paper lanterns, and poles projecting from them bear flags and streamers of the gaudiest colours, on which are inscriptions (setting forth the name and business probably of the merchant), and sundry fantastic devices. At the corner of a street was a tall brazier of cast iron, with burning coals, round which the Mongolian porters and camel-drivers sat preparing their tea and smoking tobacco. At the junction of the two chief streets stands a temple of considerable dimensions, with four towers, open arcades, and galleries, and having long coloured flags hanging from every project-ing point. Sunset is proclaimed by the ringing of cymbals from the upper galleries of this building, and shots fired in the private courts below propagate the intelligence. M. Ermann, who witnessed the signal of the close of day, reluctantly commenced retracing his steps to the Russian town. As he passed along, the only answer to his greetings that he received from the gentle and orderly Chinese, was pashol, or "go," while they, at the same time, pointed to the northern door. In Maimachin, as everywhere else along the frontier of the two empires, the Chinese of the better class, whether military or mercantile, make a favourable impression on Europeans, by their personal neatness, the elegance of their dress, the softness of their man-ners, and easy self-possession. If M. Ermann was mortified, on his first visit to Maimachin, that the sun should so soon set on his exploration, he was amply indemnified, two days later, for his disappointment in the first instance. In the year 1829, the Chinese festival of the "White Moon," or the beginning of the year, fell on the 18th of February, and was celebrated, in Maimachin, by a treat given to the Russian officers and merchants. Our traveller was, of course, invited, for he had made himself an object of curiosity. Some asked him if he were a ziani, or gipsy-a

Englishman. The feast day being arrived, a long train of carriages, of various descriptions, issued from the Russian fort a few miles from Kiachta, and attended by a numerous company of Cossacks and interpreters, proceeded in joyous procession to Maimachin. The Russians, alighting from their vehicles at the gate of the Chinese town, marched in order to the house of the Sarguchéi, or governor. When about half way, they were met by a fantastic company of masqueraders, who welcomed them with all kinds of antics. These, as was afterwards learned, were professional actors; and M. Ermann observes. that those among them who personated females, showed a skill quite equal to the delicacy of their task. Their performance, which was intended as a homage to the visitors, detained the procession some time, and made such an impression on our author's olfactories, as brought forcibly to his mind Shakspeare's excellent advice-

And, most dear actors, eat no onions With the odour of the crowd, who exhaled garlic, was mingled that of the fireworks, and of innumerable pastilles lighted on the joyful

The Russian party at length arrived at the house of the Sarguchéi, and were ushered into the presence of the chief-an elderly man, of calm and dignified manners. There was nothing stately in the interior of his house-for indeed the treaties subsisting between the Chinese and Russian empires, forbid the erection of substantial edifices in Maimachin. The law also which forbids Chinese women to enter that place, prevents the growth, in it, of any splendid or luxu-We could not, rious domestic establishments. if we had a hundred tongues, follow our author through all the particulars of this feast. We shall only say, that it began with an attack on an infinite variety of preserved fruits, from Bokhara, the Indian isles, and the richest gardens of the East. The various conserves were lodged in niches of turreted porcelain, which were soon emptied by the inquisitive appetites of the guests. Then followed tea, and afterwards came in, course after course, more delicacies than Ude or Kitchiner ever dreamt of. Each course consisted of a number of small plates, or rather saucers, completely covering the table, and each filled with a different viand. The plates on which each succeeding course was served, were laid on top of those that preceded, so that, at the last, the empty porcelain, accumulated on the table, formed what M. Ermann very happily styles a gastronomic pyramid. He endeavoured to conform to the Chinese notion of refined eating, and to taste everything. But we fear that his curiosity, as a naturalist, to discover what he was eating, must have marred his progress, so that he confesses only to have tasted a hundred dishes. Brandy, soups, and tobacco, concluded the treat. The Russians, on rising from the table, followed their host into the Temple of Fo, which adjoins his house, and amused themselves with contemplating the symbols of a creed which seems to delight in the most monstrous concep-

The dwellings of the Chinese merchants, visited by M. Ermann, were, internally, much more elegant than the palace of the Sarguchéi; but their warehouses were deservedly the chief objects of his curiosity. Of the goods stored in these, the most important, by far, were tea, and a woollen stuff called Siba (we presume, a coarse kind of flannel), which is indispensable to the Siberian peasant. But porcelain of various kinds, paper ornaments, toys for all ages—some of them were of a scientific character-made the chief display. The current money in Kiachta is the name often given by the Chinese to Europeans in brick tea, which, according to M. Ermann, is general—while others, more knowing, concluded that he was a Chundi, or red-head—that is, an the tea magazines, mixed with the leaves of other.

In the middle of March, there was a daily

plants. The mixture is pressed iffto a solid mass with bullocks' blood, and, in brick-shaped lumps, is exported in immense quantities for the consumption of Central Asia. From Kiachta alone. is annually carried northwards, for the supply of the Mongolian tribes in Eastern Siberia, about 300,000 lb. of brick tea. As a proof of the luxury and taste of the Chinese, it may be mentioned, that some of the ornamental productions displayed in the warehouses of Maimachin, viz. -representations of flowers, made with hard stones—jasper, agate, cornelian, &c.—bore no less a price than 4000 bricks of tea, equivalent to about 400l. sterling. A commerce of amazing extent arises from the intercourse of the Russians and Chinese. The furs collected on the shores of the Polar Sea, owe their high price to the demand of the latter. German linen, also, our author informs us, is in great request with them; and it is not unusual for the Russian merchants of Kiachta to visit the great linen markets of Prussia, and to return with their purchased goods, so as to complete, within the year, a journey of 10,000 miles.

M. Ermann had scarcely commenced his return from Kiachta to Irkutsk, when he was met by four Mongolian lamas, or priests, bearing to him an invitation to visit the Chamba lama, the arch-priest or patriarch of the Mongols, whose residence is not far from the southern end of Lake Baikal. These priests wore hats of yellow cloth, and scarlet mantles. One of them rode with our traveller as guide, and comported himself as if he had studied horsemanship, at least as successfully as theology. After a hard gallop of eighteen miles, our traveller found himself in a picturesque valley, with snowy mountains beyond towering to the deep blue sky, and in front, two ranks of men, all dressed in scarlet, waving streamers, and making a musical din with instruments, some of which were of colossal dimensions. These were priests who had advanced to meet him. He was immediately introduced to the Chamba lama, whom age and excessive corpulence confined to his house. He then learned, from this venerable priest, that the religion of Chigemune, professed by the Mongols, is identical with the Buddhaism of India. Of this we are certain, at all events, that it is the same with the religion of Thibet. The sacred or scriptural language of the Buraets, is called by them the language of Tangút (that is, Eastern Thibet): but it is asserted by Mr. Yuill, an English missionary, residing in Irkutsk, that the language in question is nothing else than pure Sanscrit. In the temple near the dwelling of the Chamba lama, M. Ermann saw a large collection of books, in the sacred language. The lamas were all extremely communicative, and some of them well informed. There is a lama in every family; so that the Mongolian priesthood constitute a sixth part of the whole nation; and as they are forbidden to marry, they labour under the imputation of corrupt manners. Even the Chamba lama himself, as our author relates, figures in the chronicles of Mongolian scandal.

Scarcely had our traveller returned to Irkutsk, when he had the lively satisfaction (for such, under the circumstances, must have been the feeling of a philosopher in search of phenomena) of experiencing an earthquake. This gives oc-casion to a discussion, in which our space and system forbid us to follow our author, respecting the geological character and conformation of the country round Irkutsk. We shall only say, that whatever evidence of Vulcanian origin there may be in the form of Lake Baikal, or in the deposits of coal adjoining it, we do not believe that the degenerate earthquakes of the present day will

thaw in Irkutsk, and our author feared that the season for sledge travelling was nearly at an end, and that he should not be able to reach the coast of Kamchatka before the summer. He was comforted, however, by experienced travel-lers, with the assurance that deep winter still lingered on the road which he proposed to travel. On the 19th he set off, and at first experienced considerable difficulty; but at night, the thermometer descending to -13° gave him promise of a hard and smooth road. His course lay of a hard and smooth road. northwards, over the hills which separate the basin of the Yenisei from that of the Lena, and in two days he reached the latter river, which then formed his road for some hundreds of miles. At some distance down the Lena, its banks became high; and, if the lofty ridges retire a little, it is only to make way for narrow slips of alluvial deposits, of great depth and richness. The precipices overhanging the river, are in some places split, by the severe cold, into columns, between which the interstices are filled up with ice. In other places, the banks expose alternating strata of ice and alluvial deposit. It is to the confined character of the valley of the Lena that our author and others ascribe the frequency of goitre among those inhabiting its banks. As he proceeded northwards, he found himself going back, as it were, into winter, and viewed with no little surprise the husbandry of the Yakuts, who contrive to keep large herds of cattle, and to live on cow's milk, in the coldest region of the earth. They ride their oxen, and yoke them in sledges. The young calves have the best place near the fire assigned to them; and the Yakuts are rich from their skill and perseverance in nourishing so valuable an animal.

Yakutsk, which our traveller reached on the 8th of April, displays a few wooden houses, intermixed with a great number of huts, plastered over with cow-dung, and windowed with ice. In fact, the Yakuts, with their large herds, and their knowledge of the country, are indispensable to the Russian merchants, and are, therefore, encouraged to settle in the town. In general, on the banks of the Lena northwards, the aboriginal tribes resume the superiority, and the Russians comfort themselves as the tolerated party. The language of the Yakuts is that generally spoken by the Russian merchants from the Lena to Kamchatka. It is hardly conceivable how the love of gain could ever have induced men, acquainted with a milder climate, to take up their abode in this, the coldest spot on the earth's surface. The earth at Yakutsk is always frozen, the summer's thaw never reaching below three feet from the surface; and M. Ermann is disposed to conclude that the subterranean ice has a depth of 600 feet. Astounding as this statement may be, yet it seems to be confirmed by all that we know of the observed temperature of Yakutsk. For two months in every year, it has a medium temperature of -40°: in January, the thermometer has been known to descend to -72°, or 18° below the degree of cold experienced by Captain Ross in his last expedition.

Yet the inhabitants of Yakutsk, favoured by a warm, though short summer, reap wheat and barley, and cultivate successfully potatoes and a variety of hardy vegetables.

On the 23rd April, Ermann having completed the necessary preparations for his arduous journey across the mountains, left the valley of the Lena, and shaped his course eastwards towards Ochotsk. His baggage was now carried by a long train of horses. For safety in the wilderness, on which he was about to enter, he relied entirely on the good faith and sagacity of his Yakut guide. His journey towards the Aldan mountains offers no incident entitled to our notice. On the 2nd of May his Yakut guides consigned him over to the Tungúses, who, with

reindeer, were to take him across the mountains. The rumour of his character and occupation, as reported by the Yakuts, had preceded him, and he was recognized as the officer sent to look for some stars which were missing at St. Petersburgh. At all the native encampments where he subsequently halted, the people, politely desirous of manifesting an interest in his pursuits, always inquired after "the lost stars." He found, to his cost, that the art of riding the reindeer is an accomplishment not easily acquired by adults. That animal will bear no pressure behind the shoulder, and the rider who inadvertently leans back, is sure to roll off immediately, as the deer contracts its hind quarters. Our traveller, therefore, at first setting out, was tumbled most unmercifully; sometimes he fell on snow, sometimes on ice, or, what was worse, in the water; but in all cases the alacrity and good-humour of his companions soon relieved his distress, and, on the whole, made the journey agreeable. The reindeer of the Tungúsens are noble animals, of greater size and finer frame than those of Northern Europe; and we can easily believe our author's assertion, that nothing can be more picturesque than a train of reindeer galloping over the wild mountains, and gracefully ridden by their practised masters.

Immense forests of larch cover the Aldan mountains, and attain on them an absolute elevation which shows how little their growth is affected by the winter's cold. Noble trees stand at a height of 3500 feet above the sea, an elevation at which it would be vain to think of rearing them in the much milder climate of the British islands. In the same situation snow fell heavily on the 13th May. After reaching the eastern side of the mountains, whence the streams flow into the Ocean, the huts, covered with fish skin instead of hides, indicated a new mode of subsistence. A little farther down, the reindeer reached their customary limits, and M. Ermann was consigned to the owners of dogs, to be conveyed to the coast. His baggage required a long train of dog-sledges, but the journey down hill was easy. As he continued to descend, he felt sensibly the advance of spring; the snow melting on the banks of the streams, exposed to view an immense quantity of dead fish, and afforded inexhaustible provision for the dogs. Thus, after collecting a large body of philosophical information in his route across Siberia, and without encountering any accident or suffering any serious loss, he arrived, on the 19th May, on the sea side, at the humble town of Ochotsk, the hospitable inhabitants of which greeted him cordially, not forgetting at the same time to inquire for "the lost stars.

The Life of George Lord Anson. By Sir John Barrow, Bart., F.R.S. Murray.

The same objection holds against this 'Life of Lord Anson,' as against the 'Life of Lord Howe,' by the same author. The volumes may be valuable, as connecting links in the chain of our naval history, but they are too bald of personal anecdote to have much interest as biographies. There is, indeed, very little here recorded of Lord Anson that was not perfectly well known before.

We confess, that the name of Anson is not one of those on which we are accustomed to dwell very emphatically, when running over the bead-roll of illustrious naval heroes. Though familiarly known to Englishmen by his memorable voyage round the world, it is rather for the dreadful sufferings of the expedition which he commanded, than its glorious results: it was but a buccaneering, affair as projected, and ended in nothing but misery and prize-money, for the burning of Paita had better be kept out of sight altogether; and surely it is no great cause of

exultation, to the countrymen of Howe and Jervis, of St. Vincent and Nelson, that a superior British force triumphed off Cape Finisterre. That Anson was a man of great nerve and resolution, right-minded and honest, we readily admit—but no more.

George Anson, the subject of the present memoir, was the second son of Mr. Anson, of Shugborough, in the county of Stafford, and born on the 23rd of April, 1697. Little is known of his early life. We find him, when about twenty, serving as lieutenant in the Baltic fleet. under Sir John Norris. In 1717, he was on board the Montague when Sir George Byng fell in with the Spanish fleet; in 1722 he was made commander; and in 1723 was appointed to the Scarborough, and ordered to South Carolina, to protect the trade on that coast. There he became so popular, that the colonists gave his name to various places; and, as Sir John Barrow observes, to this hour we find in the maps, Anson county, Ansonville, Anson Mines, &c. In 1735 he was paid off, and, for the first time during nineteen years, he remained between two and three years on shore. In December, 1737, when there was a probability of a war with Spain, he was again appointed to the Centurion, and sent to the coast of Africa, and thence to Barbadoes whence he was recalled, and placed in command of that expedition which has made his name so familiar to the world. The result is well known. On his return, he was not very cordially received at the Admiralty, although, on a promotion which soon afterwards took place, he was made an admiral; but, as the appointment of his first lieutenant, Brett, as acting captain had not been confirmed, he returned his commission. If this very strong proceeding was not quite justified by circumstances, it speaks well for Anson as a man of high and generous feeling. A change, however, in the ministry took place soon after, and Anson was appointed a member of the Board of Admiralty. His conduct in this situation is highly commended by Sir John Barrow, than whom there are few persons more competent to form an opinion on the subject. In 1747, it was considered urgently necessary to do something to redeem the character of our navy, which had suffered in public opinion by the affair of Matthews and Lestock, and a fleet was forthwith fitted out, of which Anson himself took the command. The action off Cape Finisterre followed; he was created a Peer, and returned to his old post at the Admiralty. Now the merits of Anson as a Lord of the Admiralty began to make themselves manifest. A visitation of the Dock Yards then took place for the first time, though it is now considered as an established duty, to be performed annually. Sir John Barrow, who has at his command all official records, observes-

"In the minutes of their proceedings it appears, that they found the men generally idle, the officen ignorant, the stores ill-arranged, abuses of all kinds overlooked, the timber ill assorted, that which was longest in store being undermost, the standing order neglected, the ships in ordinary in a very dirty and bad condition, filled with women and children, and that the officers of the yard had not visited them, which it was their duty to do; that men were found borne and paid as officers, who had never done duty as such, for which their Lordships reprimanded the Navy Board, through the comptroller; that the store keeper's accounts were many years in arrear, and, what was most extraordinary, that the Navy Board had never required them; in short, gross negligence, irregularities, waste, and embezzlement were so pal-pable, that their Lordships ordered an advertisement to be set up in various parts of all the yards, offering encouragement and protection to such as should discover any misdemeanors, committed either by the officers or workmen, particularly in employing workmen or labourers on their private affairs, or any other whatever."

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and it was on this occasion that the corps of Marines was established, in lieu of the old Marine regiments, which had been broken up and dismissed during the peace. Byng's unhappy failure, trial, and death soon followed. It is curious to observe how the secretaries of the Admiralty differ in their judgment respecting the condemnation and execution of Byng. Mr. Croker, in his notes to Boswell, says—" Nothing can be more unfounded than the assertion that Byng fell a martyr to political party. It is im-possible to read the trial, without being convinced that he had misconducted himself; and the extraordinary proceedings in both Houses of Parliament subsequent to his trial, prove at once of the court-martial, and the absence of all reason for doing so. By a strange coincidence of circumstances, it happened that there was a total change of ministry between his condemnation and his death; so that one party presided at his trial, and another at his execution: there can be no stronger proof that he was not a political martyr." On this, Sir John observes "The fact is not quite correct as here stated. The ministry was changed on the 19th of November, the trial commenced on the 28th of December: the sentence (his condemnation) December; the sentence (his condemnation) was not passed till the 27th of January, and the execution took place on the 14th of March; so that one party (the new ministry) presided at his trial, his condemnation, and his execution." Now, it appears to us, that this error, such as it is, only strengthens Mr. Croker's argument. The old ministry were naturally willing to encourage the popular outcry against Byng. Sir Edward Hawke, we know, was sent out to supersede, arrest, and send him home for trial, on the strength of the French admiral's report, and before even his own dispatches had arrived: persons too were employed to write him down, and Lord Hardwicke, the Chan-cellor, revised the MS. But proportionate to the anxiety of the old ministry to make him their scape-goat, was, it may be presumed, the good-will of their successors to protect him; yet it was under them, Sir John tells us, that he was tried, condemned, and executed. Notwithstanding the additional strength thus given to Mr. Croker's view of the case, we incline to the conclusion of Sir John Barrow, that Byng's execution was a judicial murder. Byng was justly con-demned, we admit—the court-martial had no alternative; but the law which adjudged him to die was cruel and detestable, and subsequently repealed. The Court felt this, and in their verdict recommended him in the strongest manner to mercy :-

"36. Unanimously. Resolved, that the Admiral appears to fall under the following part of the 12th article of the Articles of War, to wit: 'Or shall not do his utmost to take or destroy every ship which it shall be his duty to engage; and to assist and relieve all and every of his Majesty's ships which it shall be

his duty to assist and relieve.

"37. Resolved, as that article positively prescribed death, without any alternative left to the discretion of the Court, under any variation of circumstances, that he be adjudged to be shot to death at such time, and on board such ship as the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty shall direct. But as it appears by the evidence of Lord Robert Bertie, Lieutenant-Colone Smith, Captain Gardiner, and other officers of the ship, who were near the person of the Admiral, that they did not perceive any backwardness in him during the action, or any marks of fear or confusion either from his countenance or behaviour, but that he seemed to give his orders coolly and distinctly, and did not seem wanting in personal courage, and, from other circumstances, the Court do not believe that his misconduct arose either from cowardice or disaffection; and do therefore unanimously think it their duty most earnestly to recommend him as a proper object of mercy."

following letter to the Lords Commissioners of

"We, the underwritten, the president, and mem-bers of the court-martial, assembled for the trial of Admiral Byng, believe it unnecessary to inform your lordships that, in the whole course of this long trial, we have done our utmost endeavours to come at truths, and to do the strictest justice to our country and the prisoner; but we cannot help laying the dis-tresses of our minds before your lordships on this occa-sion, in finding ourselves under a necessity of condemning a man to death, from the great severily contamining a man to death, from the great severily of the 12th article of war, part of which he falls under, and which admits of no mitigation, even if the crime should be committed by an error in judgment only, and, therefore, for our own conscience's sakes, as well as in justice to the prisoner, we pray your lordships in the most earnest manner to recommend him to his Majesty's clemency."

Who, after reading these documents,-the re-

who, after reading these documents,—the re-corded opinions of his judges,—can deny that Byng's death was judicial murder? We have stated, that persons were employed by the ministry to write him down. Mallet was denounced by Johnson at the time, as "a beggarly Scotchman, who wrote against Byng at the instigation of the (old) ministry." proof, in a letter from the Lord High Chancellor:

"Wimpole, Oct. 10th, 1756.
My DEAR LORD—I have taken the opportunity "My DEAR LORD—I have taken the opportunity of the Marquess of Rockingham's doing me the honour of a visit, to return (by his servant) to Mr. Cleveland the manuscript of Mr. Mallet's pamphlet. I had read it quite through, and, upon the whole, cannot find much fault with it, though I must own I am not much enamoured with it. But this entre nous, for authors of this kind must not be discouraged by too much criticism. However, I have ventured to put down in the enclosed sheet of paper some re-marks and queries, which I desire your lordship will take the trouble to peruse, and to consider whether you think any of them improper, especially in what relates to maritime affairs and dispositions. Whatever you shall disapprove in this paper of mine, I desire you will strike out, and then deliver it to Mr. Cleveland, with my request to him to copy it over fair, and forthwith send such copy to Mr. Mallet, keeping my original. My reason (which I will tell your lordship) for taking this method is, that I am not fond of giving a handle to be named as a joint author with this gentleman; but I have writ him a very civil letter, wherein I have informed him that he will very soon receive such a paper from Mr. Cleveland. I have also modestly suggested to him to add something further, by way of observation and argument, upon the points of conduct chiefly objected to, for in that part I suspect the performance to be chiefly deficient. Ever yours,

Within six or eight months, Lord Anson was restored to his seat at the Admiralty. The history of his life, as here recorded, is now, more than ever, the common history of the country. We have, however, a curious letter from the now ex-Chancellor, Anson's father-in-law, which gives us a little insight into the unworthy trickery to which a great man can condescend upon occasions. It appears, that Sir Joseph Yorke, the Earl of Hardwicke's third son (then minister of the Hague), had kept up a private correspondence with the Duke of Newcastle, who was thus enabled sometimes to anticipate to the king the official communications of the Earl of Holdernesse, the Foreign Secretary. In consequence, the latter sent Sir Joseph a very sharp letter of remonstrance, not without threats; and the intrigue made manifest in the following letter, was set on foot, to induce the Duke to come forward and boldly defend "poor Joe":-

forward and boldly defend "poor Joe":—
"Grosvenor Square, November 14th, 1759.
"My Dear Lord—I have been reflecting upon what passed between your lordship and me last night, and I have judged it necessary to give you this trouble. I wish you could make it convenient to you to see the Duke of Newcastle this forenoon, either at Newcastle House (which would be best) or else at

Not content with this, the Court addressed the | court, before the House of Lords comes with their address. I beg further that you would tell him some-thing of what passed between us two last night, and tell him as many of the strong things, which I said, as you can recollect; the stronger you represent them the better; that, from what his grace said to them the better; that, from what his grace said to your lordship, I feared his various occupations had not allowed him time to consider my letter from Wimpole of the first of this month by Barnesley; that, as to what is passed, I was only confirmed in the same opinion, which is there expressed at large. But my desire is to look forwards, which, in general, must depend upon events; that, for the present, my resolution is—that, until this unhappy affair of Joe is set right, I will not set my foot within the House of Lords. I will not come near the court, nor hear one word upon I will not come near the court, nor hear one word upon any public business; that, from this resolution, the King's civil list shall not move me. I think this will alarm his grace; and the first thing he will think of will be to come to me, either as he comes from St. James's to-day or at night. Both these I would avoid. The first would hurt me in my present state, by keeping me from my dinner; the last, by keeping me up till midnight. I therefore beg your lordship would, in a kind, confidential way, say to his grace, 'You had better let Charles and me talk to him before you see him. I found his mind was much agitated and heated; and he owned it was this hindered his sleep-We will see him this evening: you need no suspect our blowing him up, we will only calm and make him more easy. If I know his grace, he will be thankful for this, and it will bring it to what I have wanted ever since I came to town, to have a full conversation with your lordship, Royston, and Charles (whom I consider as part of myself, and on whom I can rely), to settle what is fit to be done for my honour and Joe's interest before I talk with anybody else on the subject. I desire this for two reasons,— 1st, the thing is rightest in itself; 2nd, I own I dare not trust myself to an impetuous conversation with th Duke of Newcastle in my present state. I should be Duke of Newcaste in my present state. I should be in danger of losing my temper, and of hurting the cause, or myself, or both. If this scheme takes place, I wish your lordship could be here between seven and eight this evening, or as much earlier as you please. Let me know if you can, and I will appoint Charles. He may get away early from the serjoant's feast. If this meeting cannot be to-night, I shall like it as well to-morrow, provided the Duke of Newcastle can be decently kept off in the mean time. Be so good as to let me hear a word from you; forgive this trouble, "Believe me, &c. &c.

" HARDWICKE."

With a like historical summary, the work proeeds onwards to the death of Anson, which took place on the 6th of June 1762. Sir John Barrow thus sums up his character :-

"To say that Anson was a perfect seaman would be no great compliment to an officer who, like him, had spent the first thirty years at least, after leaving home, in the various duties of the profession; and few men had more painful experience of the dangers, the difficulties, and the melancholy disasters to which a seaman's life is exposed, than he had in those which fell to his lot to encounter in his enterprising voyage round the world. In that voyage he gave ample proof that he was a truly brave man—morally and physically brave a man of firm nerves, and of great resources in time of need_for the exercise of which, occasions were neither slight nor few. To say he was so is no special praise. All the world knows that a naval officer is and must be brave; it is a virtue common to the whole profession; they are instructed from their earliest youth to be so, and it is a plant from their earliest youth to be so, and it is a plant that grows with their growth: but like other qualities it has its degrees, and requires occasions to bring it forth. It did not happen to fall to the lot of Anson to distinguish himself particularly in action with the enemy. His engagement with the great Acapulco ship, with his reduced and feeble crew, just one-half in number to the enemy, was highly creditable to him, his officers, and ship's company; and perhaps still more so, after all their sufferings, cheerfully to go forth with the true undaunted spirit of British seaforth with the true undaunted spirit of British seamen to seek and meet the enemy. Nor was it a less strong feature in the character of Anson, that, soon after taking his seat at the Board of Admiralty, at a time when the public were dissatisfied at nothing

having been done for the first two years of the war, he volunteered to hoist his flag, and assume the command of a fleet for the purpose of intercepting two combined squadrons of the enemy, of which he had received certain information; a step that could only have been taken on public grounds, united with a desire to do something that might distinguish him, and render him worthy of the situation he held in the public service. But Anson's character is to be looked at more closely in the civil department of the navy, in which it has been seen he acquitted himself with great ability, diligence, and impartiality. Under his administration, many years before and during the Seven Years' War, the British navy attained a pitch of power and pre-eminence to which it had never before arrived: while the fleets of France and Spain were completely humbled, and almost annihilated: the remaining portion of them being mostly shut up in their ports during the last three years of the war. · Anson's attention was not merely confined to the ordinary routine of the civil and military duty; he had seen and sufficiently experienced the miserable kind of ships ours were, as compared with those of other nations, not to take advantage of his situation for their improvement. He knew that the old system of building ships, on the plan established by order in council of the year 1719, was deplorably bad, and that the ships built after it had not one good quality; yet it would have been little short of treason to break through it. Anson, however, had not been two years in the Board when, in 1746, he prevailed on the Duke of Bedford and Lord Sandwich to obtain a revision of the faulty system, and if possible to establish a better. • • Anson was not only thus a great benefactor to the matériel of the navy, but equally so to its officers, whose claims had not been listened to with that attention which they had a right to expect from one of their own corps, usually placed at the head of the naval department. • • He was a man of great modesty and simplicity of manners, and so reserved in general society as to give some truth to the point of Williams's bon mot, that he had been round the world, but never in it: Walpole, also, is not far from the truth in calling him 'the silent son-in-law of the chancellor.' His silence and reserve, however, were not the offspring of any deficiency of knowledge or want of ability, either on general or professional acquirements, but from that natural diffidence of his own merit, and a reluctance of speaking in public, which very many men of considerable talents have not been able to overcome; while others, with a parsimony of intellect, are by no means deficient in volubility of speech. As a representative in the House of Commons, and subsequently as a peer of the realm
—as a member of the Board of Admiralty, holding for many years the high and responsible situation of First Lord—it does not appear, from the parliamenit does not appear, from the parliamentary history, that he ever spoke on any subject, pro-fessional or otherwise, although many naval ques-tions of considerable importance, in both houses, were brought into discussion; but there were always able civilians in the Board to represent his sentiments. In the records of the Admiralty there is abundant evidence of his constant and unremitting attention to the various duties of that department, and of the large share he had in them. • The fleets that he fitted out, with a rapidity never before known, afford no ground for the imputation of slowness; the truth appears to be, that he was slow to decide, but quick to execute. He was not certainly possessed of shining abilities, but a plain, straightforward, matter-of-fact man, attentive to the duties of his office, well acquainted with the practical part of his profession, and—what is perhaps equally important—with the character of the officers belonging to it, which he closely looked at and thoroughly understood-the more necessary in his time, as selection for promotion to the flag was almost exclusively the rule."

After all, the Appendix to this volume, like the postscript, it is said, of a lady's letter, contains the more important matter-an invaluable paper on the present state and condition of the navy. Our political contemporaries have already spread the information it contains, in its minutest details, from one end of the kingdom to the It will be enough, therefore, for us to give the brief summary with which it concludes; and the situation of Sir John Barrow, for nearly

thirty years Secretary to the Admiralty, will make his answer conclusive against the mischievous babble equally of seniors, juniors, young commanders," or old "flag officers":

"In conclusion: I cannot hesitate to affirm, and I do so neither rashly nor vauntingly, nor without due research, that, if any confidence is to be placed on official statements and returns, at no former period of profound peace, in the whole history of Great Britain, was her navy in so efficient a stat to the number, condition, and equipment of the ships in commission, and the number and superior qualities of the petty officers and effective seamen borne on their books: nor were the number, the dimensions, and the condition of the ships in ordinary, and the preparations and stores in the dock-yards for increasing the active and efficient force of the fleet, at any time more satisfactory, than at the present moment—the commencement of the year 1839."

The Botany of Capt. Beechey's Voyage. By Sir W. J. Hooker, and G. W. Arnott, Esq. Part VI. 4to. H. G. Bohn.

Flora Boreali - Americana. By Sir W. J. Hooker. Part X. 4to. H. G. Bohn.

IT is to be hoped that these important works will be brought to a close without delay, now that they have fallen into the hands of their pre-sent publisher. They are almost the only attempts which have been made in this country to execute botanical plates in outline only, after the plan so common in the books of continental naturalists; and they offer a striking proof of the advantage of the method, by the number of plates which the authors have been already able to produce-viz. 59 in the first, and 198 in the second, even in England, where so little encouragement is given by the public to works on natural history which are not filled with coloured

'The Botany of Capt. Beechey's Voyage' contains an account of the plants collected by Messrs. Lay and Collie, the naturalists attached to the voyage of the Blossom in the years 1825, 6, 7, and 8, to the Pacific and Behring's Straits. The matter is arranged geographically-a plan which, however inconvenient to the systematical reader, by compelling him to search through a number of different places for whatever information he may be in search of, is, nevertheless, the most advantageous for the traveller, as it enables him to put his hand at once upon the vegetation of a given country. Had the materials placed in the hands of the gentlemen intrusted by the Colonial Office with the publication of this work been such as ought to have been brought home by a British expedition lasting nearly four years, we might have had a book full of the most interesting information. But, alas for the credit of the persons to whom government intrusted the duty of forming collections! the whole result of their labours seems to have been, a few bundles of dried plants, out of which Sir W. Hooker and Mr. Arnott have been able to extract nothing but dry systematical details. There are few parts of the world of more interest to naturalists than the islands of Loo Choo and Bonin; and no collector, of the smallest industry or activity, could have been ashore for a day, without having got together some hundreds of species illustrative of the Flora of the country. Messrs. Lay and Collie appear, from the evidence of Sir W. Hooker, to have brought off a little more than 158! and these were mixed up with the herbarium formed at Tapir, in Mexico. It is not, however, the quantity of information obtained by the naturalists of the Blossom in a four years' expedition, of which we complain, so much as its quality. We have in vain endeavoured to discover some evidence of notes upon the uses of the plants these collectors found, or some account of the cultivation, of the climate with regard to vegetation, or of the botanical features of the countries

they visited, having been furnished to Messrs Hooker and Arnott; and it does appear to us, that all the duties which Messrs, Lay and Collie performed, might have been executed as well by any common seaman after an hour's instruc-

The present part of the work contains the notes of the learned editors upon the plants found in China, Loo Choo, Bonin, and Mexico.

If the contributors to the 'Flora Boreali-Americana' had been like those of the voyage of the Blossom, we should have had a very different work from the highly important one which is now drawing to a close. Fortunately for science, the energy of Richardson, Drummond, Douglas, Menzies, Scouler, and others, offers a striking contrast to the inefficiency of those who are the subject of the foregoing animadversions. These indefatigable travellers have collected such a mass of materials as have rarely been assembled on any former occasion in illustration of a local Flora; and they have been intrusted to a bota-nist, skilful to employ them to the greatest advantage. Of Sir W. Hooker's recent works, we regard this as the most important, and that upon which his reputation is most surely founded as a great practical botanist. When complete, it will form two thick 4to. volumes, containing between 200 and 300 plates, filled with critical and systematic information concerning the plants inhabiting those vast possessions of the British Crown in North America which, stretching across the continent, are washed by the waves of the Atlantic and Pacific, and are bounded on the south by California and the United States, and on the north by the Polar Sea.

The part last published brings the work to the middle of Monocotyledons; so that we presume it will not extend beyond two more parts. Among the more remarkable new plants which it com prehends, are Heterostylis gramineus, and Phyllospadix Scouleri, two very curious Naiadaceous

The Poems of Richard Monckton Milnes. 2 vols. Moxon.

To account for an apparent delay in noticing volumes which were long since reviewed in other periodicals, we must observe, that they were at first privately distributed, and that under such circumstances, when criticism is not at liberty to exercise an independent judgment, it is our custom to remain silent: it is quite time enough to offer an opinion when the work is submitted to the impartial tribunal of the public. We have not, however, in this, as in many cases, to counteract, by an honest anatomy of defects, the effect of excessive laudation. Mr. Milnes's poems are tender, graceful, self-reflective—but of the age; which, weary of bitterness, brilliant contrast, and startling passion, is running into the opposite extreme, and, tired of scepticism and unbelief, is turning faith into credulity, and measuring its own sincerity by its trusting child-ishness. We do not say that Mr. Milnes has gone to this extreme; but he has not kept clear of the tendency. Another characteristic of the age, manifest in the work before us, is a desire again to associate art with that ancient Church, which, as some writer quaintly observed, has provided a chamber and an occupation, not merely for feeling but for fancy: from the belief, that could she be restored to her old ascendency over men's minds, she would manifest her influence by restoring the days of the Raffaels and Palestrinas, and fill the civilized world with works, in right of which artists might claim to be considered as little lower than the angels. We are not here alluding to the religious, but to the poetic faith of the age: and though this may be but dimly shadowed forth in England, where it is strongly opposed

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to our associations, religious worship, and com-mon-sense habits, it pervades the literature of the continent to an extent worthy of observation; for we cannot hear of young statesmen studying St. Chrysostom and St. Augustin—of young Freach noblemen writing the lives of the Saints, instead of memoirs of campaigns or collections of Calembourgs, without especial wonder. This mention of a characteristic of Mr. Milnes's poems, which, though not always tangible, is poems, which, though not aways along one always palpable, especially when his themes are the scenery, arts, and manners of other lands, leads us naturally, for the sake of offering illustration, to begin with his 'Memorials of a Residence on the Continent.' And here we shall find another evidence of the truth of the remark made by Valery, that there is still "the inspiration of literature in Italy;"-an inspiration unexhausted, even though we have had a Milton, who drew his colours and music from the skies that hang above Valombrosa, and the airs that sigh around the "gigantic skeleton of Rome,"—and colder and more worldly, Addison, warmed by the same spell,—and a Byron, inspired by the spirit of the Coliseum and the phantom of the "sea Cybele," to a passionate eloquence, which could ennoble his retributive sarcasms,—and a Shelley, "among the weed-grown ruins of the Baths of Caracalla," singing a music as rich and melancholy as though he were a "child of the soil." Italy is still unexhausted:—one pilgrim kindles the en-thusiasm of another, but the hymn of meditation and rapture is always different! It has, indeed, often struck us, that a delightful volume might be compiled from the modern poets on Italy and its associations:—Italy, the birthplace and the cradle of modern art, and literature, and civilization,-and the grave of so many, the illustrious of all ages and nations,-it is not extraordinary that the brotherhood of genius should all delight to strew flowers upon it. Nor should we northerns shine with a dim light in such an anthology, which the genius of our country could illustrate, from Milton down to Mr. Milnes. Let us take a few specimens, almost at random; the first from the 'Immortality of Rome.'

Rome has no history she can call her own;—
The history of the Western World is hers,
Whit out in all its mazy characters:
What know we fit, till that name began,
Whose light still hovers o'er the Vatican?
Where is the fount of all its myriad rills,
But springing 'mid the seven low Latitan hills?
There, thoughtless organs of divine intent,
Some scanty tribes in rudest union blent
Defensive force and martial will combined,
Till lust of conquest filled them, like a mind;
Then fast the mustard-tree of power up-grew,
Fed into strength by Fortune's choicest dew,
Gathered the winds within its ample room,
And gave the swaying boughs a voice of doom,
For ever striving, as none clae had striven,
Earth for its root, and for its branches Heaven.
And when the flush of life was past,—when came
Age's dry heart and Winter's nuked shame,—
The conscious giant trembled at the spell,
Bowed his high head in agony, and fell.
That ruin is before us,—and we all
llave felt the shock of that tremendous fall
Within our quivering hearts; we all have seen
Those temples altarless, and streets grass-green,
And columns standing lone, and basements bare,
And fragnents crumbling in the new-found air;
And, if at last our thought found utte'rarice, said,
"Surely this is the City of the Dend!"

I stood one night,—one rich Italian night,
When the Moon's lamp was prodigal of light,—
Within that Circus, whose enormous range,
Within that Circus whose enormous range,
Tho' rent and shattered by a life of change,
Still stretches forth its undiminisht span,
Telling the weakness and the strength of Man.
In that vague hour which magnifies the great,
When Desolation seems most desolate,
I thought not of the rushing crouds of yore,
Who tiled with din the vasty corridor;
Those hunters of fierce pleasure are swept by,
And host on host has trampled where they lie.
But where is he, that stood so strong and bold,
In his thick armour of enduring gold,
Whose massive form Irradiant as the sun,
Baptized the work his glory beamed upon
With his own name, Colossal?—From the day
Has that sublime illusion shrank away,

Leaving a blank weed-matted Pedestal
Of his high place the sole memorial?—
And is this miracle of imperial power,
The chosen of his tute lage, hour by hour,
Following his doom, and Rome, alive,—awake?
Weak mother! orphaned as thou art, to take
From Fate this sordid boson of lengthened life,
Of most unnatural life which is not life,
As thou wert used to live! oh! father stand
In thy green waste, as on the palm-fleckt sand,
Old Tadmor, hiding not its death;—a tomb,
Haunted by sounds of life, is none the less a tomb.—
Then from that picture of the wreck-strewn ground,
Which the arch held in frame-work, slowly round
I turned my eyes and fixt them, where was seen
A long spare shadow stretch across the green,
The shadow of the Cruciffx,—that stood,
A simple shape of rude uncarven wood,
Raising, creet and firm, its lowly head
Amid that pomp of ruin,—amid the dead,
A sign of salient life ;—the Mystery
Of Rome's immortal being was then made clear to me.
The next shall he from the "Meditative frace.

The next shall be from the "Meditative fragments upon Venice." Mr. Milnes possesses not only the painter's eye, as the following excerpt will show, but also the musician's ear: his serenade, with its burden "Stali—Premi—Sciàr," (calls of the goudoliers), sings itself. Now, for an evening picture:—

Come out upon the broad Lagoon, Come for the hundredth time,— Our thoughts shall make a pleasant tune, Our words a worthy rhyme: And thickly round us we will set Such visions as were seen, By Tixian and by Tintorett, And dear old Giambellin,—

And all their peers in art, whose eyes, Taught by this sun and sea, Flasht on their works those burning dyes, That fervent poetry; And wove the shades so thinly clear They would be parts of light In northern climes, where frowns severe Mar half the charms of sight.—

Did ever shape that Paolo drew Put on such brilliant tire, As Nature, in this evening view,— This world of tinted tire? The glory into whose embrace, The virgin pants to rise, Is but reflected from the face Of these Venetian skies.

The sun, beneath the' horizon's brow Has sunk, not past away; His presence is far lordlier now Than on the throne of day; His spi'rit of splendor has gone forth, Sloping wide violet rays, Possessing air and sea and earth With his essential blaze.

Transpicred, transfused, each densest mass Melts to as pure a glow, As inages on painted glass or silken screens can show. Gaze on the city,—contemplate With that fine sense of thine The palace of the ancient state,—That wildly-grand design!

How 'mid the universal sheen
Of Marble amber-tinged,
Like some enormous baldaquin
Gay-chequered and deep-fringed,
It stands in air and will not move,
Upheld by magic power,—
The dun-lead domes just caught above—
Beside,—the glooming tower.

Now a more distant beauty fills
Thy scope of ear and eye,—
That graceful cluster of low hills,
Bounding the western sky,
Which the ripe evening flushes cover
With purplest fruitage-bloom,—
Methinks that gold-lipt cloud may hover
Just over Petrarch's tomb!

It will be gathered from the foregoing extracts, that Mr. Milnes is not wholly clear of that quaintness in which the modern contemplative writers delight;—as much as if it evidenced strength instead of weakness.

The limits of our article are nearly reached. For the information of those who may wish to place these volumes on their shelves, we ought, perhaps, to add, that the first of the two, entitled 'Poems of Many Years,' contains those more popular pieces—'The Lay of the Humble'— and, accordingly, in the solitude of the wilder-the Men of Old'—'The Flight of Youth.' We have yet two less familiar specimens to offer ere we close our notice, with a hearty wish that Mr. Milnes may gird himself to some task of consequence, sufficient, in its worthy completion,

to ensure him an universal-not a partial repu-

Ghazel.

My own friend, yold friend!
Time's a soldier bold, friend!
Of his lofty prowess
Many a tale is told, friend!
Nations are his puppets,
To be bought and sold, friend!
He can mock the conqueror,
Raze his strongest hold, friend!
Fool the stern philosopher,
Win the miser's gold, friend!
But though early nature
Has so frail a mould, friend!
What the tyrant cannot do
Is to make us cold, friend!

Is to make us coid, friend:

I love the Forest;—I could dwell among
That silent people, till my thoughts up-grew
In nobly-ordered form, as to my view
Rose the succession of that lofty throng:—
The mellow footstep on a ground of leaves
Formed by the slow decay of numer rous years,—
The cuch of moss, whose growth alone appears,
Beneath the fir's inhospitable caves,—
The chirp and flutter of some single bird,—
The rustle in the brake,—what precious store
Of joys have these on Poets' hearts conferred!
And then at times to send one's own voice out,
In the full frolle of one starting shout,
Unly to feel the after-stillness more!

History of the United States, from the Discovery of the American Continent. By George Bancroft. Vol. II. Boston, Bowen; London, R. J. Kennett.

WE noticed the first volume of this work some four years since (No. 356), with an interest such as might well be excited by the appearance of what promised to be a standard and complete history of the American Republic, written in a spirit worthy of the subject, by one of its own sons. The volume before us completes the annals of the settlement of nearly all the original States of the Union. It brings down the history from Cromwell's time to the close of the 17th century. It includes, besides the actual share which the provinces had in almost all the revolutions of the mother country at the time of their occurrence, the remarkable contests between some of them (especially Massachusetts) and the British authorities—contests singularly interesting to the accurate observer, as the unequivocal beginnings and uncontrollable breakings out of the spirit which was destined a hundred years afterwards to triumph over all European restraint. These manifestations have not escaped the vigilance of Mr. Bancroft; and he has made his work additionally interesting by the developement which he has given them. This spirit, indeed, manifests itself so strongly and decidedly, even in his earliest annals, that it startles the unprepared reader, who has been in the habit of regarding the war of the revolution, or at least the dissensions that immediately preceded it, as the commencement of the transatlantic movement for democratic institutions in the first place, and for union and independent nationality in the second. The fact is, and this history will make it apparent to all the world, American independence was in reality coeval with American civilization. The spirit of the colonists was such, that it could not, at the distance of 3000 miles from any authority, (an awful distance then, be it remembered) be held in check; the less so, as this country was, during the greater part of that time, involved in troubles which left us little leisure to attend to these remote interests. Such colonies, too, were a new thing. America was an unknown land and an undervalued one. Meanwhile, the colonists were in a great measure treated as they most desired; they were left to themselves, and, accordingly, in the solitude of the wilderness, and among all the hardships and struggles of a new world, and a residence among savages and half-civilized neighbours, they cherished and which was never for a moment extinguished. Thus abandoned by the old world, they followed out their inclinations, and freely adapted themselves to circumstances. The same circumstances essentially prevailed among all the settlements; and, in proportion as they did prevail, similar results in politics, in morals, and in social life, gradually developed themselves. Representative democracies, and all the little incidents of a spontaneous system of self-government, sprang up as it were, like a fruit of the soil, in every direction. Carolina and Massachusetts came, without co-operation or connivance, to the same conclusions. It was the force of circumstances: it was the spirit of the men.

Take a specimen of Massachusetts. That stubborn province had shown a decided will of its own early, even in the period included in the first volume of this work. The people there had joined distinct issue with England on the question of subjection to laws of parliament wherein they were specially named or clearly included; it being held on this side that they were bound in all such cases, but by them as stoutly denied. And not merely did they deny the obligation in theory, they resisted its application in practice, remonstrating expressly, at the same time, against such a submission, as " the loss of English liberty," protected, as they deemed themselves to be, by their charters, and by Magna Charta, and the ancient institutions and laws of the universal realm. In this remonstrance the Long Parliament acquiesced. It was not till the Restoration that the Judges decreed otherwise, asserting legislative jurisdiction unrestrained. Then commenced, not a state of submission, but a course of bitter controversy, dangerous discussion, and growing discontent, the result of which was only seen in the bursting flames of the so-called "Revolution of 1775." That revolution began actually more than a century before. It was the war merely which then broke out.

Such, evidently, is the inference to be gathered from this history; and likely, we believe, to be more and more confirmed by growing details as it proceeds. Such also is manifestly the opinion of the historian himself; he sees plainly enough the conclusions he is turning up, as it were, from the rich mines he digs in, though he does not suffer himself to be diverted from his business by what he sees, but digs on, rejoicing in his work. He gives, for instance, a full and clear account of the Navigation Laws of the Convention parliament: laws, which did more than the celebrated Stamp Act itself, or the Boston Port bill, or any other law or measure of the British government, to mature the perpetual though covert scheme,—or feeling, if the reader please,—in favour of American independence. Mr. Bancroft shows that this commercial legislation touched the colonies in a tender point: "it converted commerce," he says, "which should be a bond, into a source of rankling hostility:"—"the navigation act contained a pledge of the ultimate independence of America."

We have alluded to the condition of England during the minority of the provinces, as favourable to the encouragement of a self-dependent system and spirit on their part. A striking example occurs during the civil wars, which left the Americans to do and say almost what they pleased, and which they already well understood how to make the most of: and so of other periods. The lucid intervals, so to speak, in our domestic history of that age, were barely sufficient for the putting forth of manifestoes, orders and acts, without an attempt to enforce them. If any colony submitted for the moment, it was merely deceptive. The attention of the government that watched them was no sooner diverted to any other quarter than they began after the old fashion, and altogether with impunity. The

tempt at government, in fact, under such circumstances, only brought government into contempt. On the whole, the parent administration may be said to have done what it well could, at all times, to help on the distinct American system and spirit, as opposed to the English and the European: a movement which, as we have intimated, needed but little extrinsic aid.

Consider the condition of the colonies under Charles II. in 1660; and here we will intro-duce a passage from Mr. Bancroft,—not very reverential to royalty, but, of course, we expect an American historian to be a good democrat; his work would not be worth reading, even by a monarchist, if he were not. Mr. Bancroft, however, we may as well observe, is by no means open to exceptions of this nature. Thoroughly American and republican he certainly is-so thoroughly, so instinctively, that none of the artificiality, the affectation, the false and crude democracy, which sometimes appears in your half-made converts to that system, shows itself in him. The effect is a good one. The Americans say of our high-born and long-established aristocracy, that they find them most agreeable in their manners, most unassuming. They deport themselves easily: they can afford to do so; they have nothing to fear. So it is with the democrat in grain, like Mr. Bancroft. He does not make himself offensive. He is not continually putting himself, like Mr. Cooper, into a gladiatorial attitude, as if all the world wanted to spar with him, or to insult him. He wears his republicanism like his coat. It suits him, and fits him, and it has clung to his shoulders so long and so closely, that he never thinks of it, moving about like a gentleman, and neither like a prize-fighter nor a school-boy. This is digression, however. Let us hear what he says of Charles; it is a good sample of his style, and a good specimen of many similar sketches of character which the volume before us includes. We shall omit the notes—the "squadrons of authorities," as D'Israeli some-where says of one of the old-fashioned indefatigable authors, of whose school our historian, with all his sprightliness, is a pupil; only remarking in justice to him, that every word of his description is corroborated by Evelyn, Pepys, Barillon, Dalrymple, Burnet, and others of like repute :--

"Such was the disposition of the English parliament towards the colonies: the changes in their internal constitutions were to depend on the personal character of the monarch whom England had taken into favour.

"The tall and swarthy grandson of Henry IV. of France, was naturally possessed of a disposition which, had he preserved purity of morals, had made him one of the most amiable of men. It was his misfortune, in very early life, to have become tho-roughly debauched in mind and heart; and adversity, usually the rugged nurse of virtue, made the selfish libertine but the more reckless in his profligacy. He did not merely indulge his passions; his neck bowed to the yoke of lewdness. He was attached to women, not from love, for he had no jealousy, and was re-gardless of infidelities; nor entirely from debauch, but from the pleasure of living near them, and sauntering in their company. His delight-such is the record of the royalist Evelyn-was in 'concubines and cattle of that sort;' and up to the last week of his life, he spent his time in dissoluteness, toying with his mistresses, and listening to love-songs. If decision ever broke through his abject vices, it was but a momentary flash; a life of pleasure sapped his moral courage, and left him imbecile, fit only to be the tool of courtiers, and the dupe of mistresses. Did the English commons impeach Clarendon? Charles II. could think of nothing but how to get the duchess of Richmond to court again. Was the Dutch war sig-nalized by disasters? 'the king did still follow his women as much as ever;' and took more pains to reconcile the chambermaids of Lady Castlemaine, or

make friends of the rival beauties of his court, than to save his kingdom. He was 'governed by his lust, and the women, and the rogues about him.'

"The natural abilities of Charles II. were probably overrated. He was incapable of a strong pupose or steady application. He read imperfectly and ill. When drunk, he was a silly, good-natured, subservient fool. In the council of state he played with his dog, never minding the business, or making a speech memorable only for its silliness; and if he visited the naval magazines, his talk was equally idle and frothy."

"The best trait in his character was his natural kindliness. Yet his benevolence was in part a weakness; his bounty was that of facility; and his placable temper, incapable of strong revenge, was equally incapable of affection. He so loved his present tranquillity, that he signed the death warrants of innecent men, rather than risk disquiet; but of himself he was merciful, and was reluctant to hang any but republicans. His love of placid enjoyments as ease continued to the end. On the last morning of his life, he bade his attendants open the curtains of his bed, and the windows of his bed-chamber, that he might once more see the sun. He desired absolution; 'For God's sake, send for a Catholic priest;' but checked himself, adding, 'it may expose the Duke of York to danger.' He pardoned all his enemies, no doubt, sincerely. The queen sent to beg forgiveness for any offences. 'Alas, poor woman, she beg my pardon!" he replied; 'I beg hers with all my heart; take back to her that answer.' He expressed some regard for his brother, his children, his mis Do not leave poor Nelly Gwyn to starve, was almost his last commission.

"Such was the lewd king of England, on whose favour depended the liberties of the New England colonies, where lewdness was held a crime, and adultery inexorably punished by death on the gallows.

"Massachusetts, strong in its charter, made no haste to present itself in England as a suppliant. 'The colony of Boston,' wrote Stuyvesant, 'remains constant to its old maxims of a free state, dependent on none but God.' Had the king resolved on sending them a governor, the several towns and churches throughout the whole country were resolved to oppose him."

Charles was acknowledged by Massachusetts after a time, but was never in much favour; and why? "The virtual independence exercised for the last twenty years was too dear to be relin-quished;" an abundantly good reason, and in itself a history. Again, in 1661, "the Committee for the Plantations had already surmised that Massachusetts would, if it dared, cast off its allegiance, and resort to an alliance with Spain, or to any desperate remedy, rather than admit of appeals to England." This, be it observed, was more than a century previous to the battle of Lexington. This same year the province published a formal declaration of rights, in which the duties of allegiance were narrowed, we are told, to a few points, that "conferred neither profit nor substantial power on the king." The substance of it was, that they had a charter which secured them almost in a state of independence. This mode of government they were resolved to continue; and they were careful to acknowledge the king and his authority only with reference to it. Charles, on the other hand, wanted appellate jurisdiction. He wanted "discretion," a thing, as Mr. Bancroft somewhere cretion," a thing, as Mr. Bancroft somewhere drily remarks, the provinces were always very shy of granting. They distrusted discretion from the first. They had an inveterate habit of reading and writing, and putting on record. wished to see things " in the bond."

We need not pursue this curious contest in detail. Charles confirmed the charter because he was poor and unsettled, and "aware of the spirit of the colonists;" just as they, on the other hand, knowing enough of his situation and temperament, pressed their demands precisely in the right way, time, and degree. Afterwards he appointed a royal commission, with what they

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deemed excessive authority; and now hear how exertion made a revolution, at length, an easy these quiet gentlemen express themselves in their

remonstrance.—
"God knows, our greatest ambition is to live a
quiet life, in a corner of the world. We came not
into this wildernesse to seek great things to ourselves;
and if any come after us to seeke them heere, they will be disappointed. We keep ourselves within our line: a just dependence upon, and subjection to, your nne; a just dependence upon, and subjection to, your majestic, according to our charter, it is far from our hearts to disacknowledge. We would gladly do any thing within our power to purchase the continuance of your favourable aspect. But it is a great unhapof your favourable aspect. But it is a great unhap-piness to have no testimony of our loyalty offered but this to yield up our liberties, which are far dearer to us than our lives, and which we have willingly ventured our lives, and passed through many deaths

Finally, in 1666, it was resolved to transfer the commission to England, and Massachusetts was expressly commanded, by royal mandate, to was expressive commanded, by royal mandate, to send delegates. This decree, it will scarcely be credited, the little province, after a formal meet-ing of the general court, with religious solem-nities, emphatically refused to obey. Mr. Ban-croft calls it a "daring defiance." It would seem fool-hardy at the first glance; but the Americans well knew what they were doing. Louis XIV., just then allied with De Witt, had declared war against England. Besides, the Clarendon ministry was now broken up. The administration was in confusion. Charles, indeed, at the council meetings, worried himself about the province, openly saying there was " fear of their breaking from all dependence on the nation;" and various expedients were discussed. But the historian cuts it all short,-

"What need of many words? The king was taken up by 'the childish, simple, and baby-face,' of a new favourite; and his traffic of the honour and independence of England to the king of France. The Duke of Buckingham, now in mighty favour, was revelling with a luxurious and abandoned rout, having with him the impudent Countess of Shrewsbury, and his band of fiddlers; and the discussions at the council about New England, were, for the present, as fruit-less as the inquiries how nutnegs and cinnamon might be naturalized in Jamaica."

Now, let us note the effect of this imbecility : "Massachusetts prospered by the neglect. 'It is,' said Sir Joshua Child, in his discourse on trade, 'the most prejudicial plantation of Great Britain; the most prejudicial plantation of Great Dillain; the frugality, industry, and temperance of its people, and the happiness of their laws and institutions, promise them long life, and a wonderful increase of people, riches, and power. They enjoyed the blessings of self-government and virtual independence. The villages of New England were already the traveller's admiration; the acts of navigation were not regarded; no custom-house was established. Massachusetts, which now stretched to the Kennebeck, possessed a widely-extended trade; acting as the carrier for nearly all the colonies, and sending its ships into the most various climes. Vessels from Spain and Italy, from France and Holland, might be seen in Boston harbour; commerce began to pour out wealth on the colonists. A generous nature employed wealth liberally; after the great fire in London, even the miserable in the mother country had received large contributions, • • while the colony was reputed to abound in 'rebels to the king.' Villages extended; prosperity was universal. Beggary was unknown; theft was rare."

This prosperity helped, however, to bring on trouble from another quarter. The colonies were encroaching on the Indians: the latter grew restive; and Philip's war broke out,—the great and desperate Indian contest,-just one century previous to the critical contest with the mother country, which they were destined to encounter at last. And here, let us observe,

thing. Nothing is more extraordinary in this history, than the continual vein of determination which is seen running through the American, and especially the Massachusetts annals, and Philip's war may be referred to, for examples. How terrible it was to the infant colonies in the north, may be inferred from the fact, that the population of New England, in 1675, did not exceed 55,000, and this was scattered over a wilderness, and at the utmost disadvantage for such a war. The Indians, on the other hand, were nearly, if not quite as numerous: there were 15,000 in Maine alone. In what a state the settlements were at this period, the following passage but too forcibly shows:-

"The Indians were secret as beasts of prey, skilful marksmen, and in part provided with fire-arms, fleet of foot, conversant with all the paths of the forest, patient of fatigue, and mad with a passion for rapine, vengeance, and destruction, retreating into swamps for their fastnesses, or hiding in the greenwood thickets, where the leaves muffled the eyes of the pursuer. By the rapidity of their descent, they seemed omnipresent among the scattered villages, which they ravaged like a passing storm; and for a full year they kept all New England in a state of terror and excitement. The exploring party was waylaid and cut off, and the mangled carcasses and disjointed limbs of the dead were hung upon the trees to terrify pursuers. The labourer in the field, the reapers as they went forth to the harvest, men as they went to mill, the shepherd's boy among the sheep, were shot down by skulking foes, whose ap-proach was invisible. Who can tell the heavy hours of woman? The mother, if left alone in the house, feared the tomahawk for herself and children; on the sudden attack, the husband would fly with one child, the wife with another, and, perhaps, one only escape; the village cavalcade, making its way to meeting on Sunday, in files on horseback, the farmer holding the bridle in one hand, and a child in the other, his wife seated on a pillion behind him, it may be with a child in her lap, as was the fashion in those days, could not proceed safely; but, at the moment when least expected, bullets would come whizzing by them, discharged with fatal aim from an ambuscade by the way-side. The forest, that protected the ambush of the Indians, secured their retreat. They hung upon the skirts of the English villages, 'like the lightning on the edge of the clouds."

The enemy were subdued at last, by the energy of the colonists; but at what a cost

"Twelve or thirteen towns were destroyed; the disbursements and losses equalled in value half a million of dollars—an enormous sum for the few of that day. More than six hundred men, chiefly young men, the flower of the country, of whom any mother might have been proud, perished in the field. As many as six hundred houses were burned. Of the able-bodied men in the colony, one in twenty had fallen; and one family in twenty had been burnt out. The loss of lives and property was, in propor-tion to numbers, as distressing as in the revolutionary war. There was scarcely a family from which death had not selected a victim.

This conflict, be it observed, was carried on exclusively with provincial resources. England, in all her troubles, called on the colonists for help, and they rendered it; but they asked none

in return.

"The defence of New England had been made by its own resources. Jealous of independence, it never applied to the parent country for assistance; and the Earl of Anglesey reproached the people with their public spirit. 'You are poor,' said he, 'and yet proud.'"

But now, instead of indulging New England in its exhaustion, behold the English policy. The ministry taking advantage of this exhaustion, pressed for a settlement of the old question. how the one not only preceded, but served as preparation for the other. The colonists obtained thereby self-contidence, practice in arms, habits of self-government, by these struggles. Their hardship was an apprenticeship, and habits of solemnly refused it. At length it was as solemnly ground, which had also been prooccupied by an

adjudged in England to be forfeited, and Mass chusetts was at length, in 1685, left to the absolute will of the Court. In the next season, Andros went out to assume the government, and resistance was awed down. Great abuses followed. Andros became odious. Meanwhile, trouble was brewing. "The spirit which led forth the colonies of New England, kept their liberties alive; in the general gloom, the ministers preached sedition, and planned resistance." Finally came the Revolution of 1688. The news no sooner reached Boston, than the people rose, and put Andros in jail. The old charter was reassumed. The infection extended to Plymouth: Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, all followed in due order; and thus, to close this "strange eventful history,"—" did a popular insurrection, beginning at Boston, extend to the Chesapeake, and to the wilderness. This New England revolution 'made a great noise in the world.' Its object was Protestant liberty; and William and Mary, the Protestant sovereigns, were proclaimed with rejoicings such as America had never before known in its intercourse with England." This brings us to the end of the volume. We have confined our notice chiefly to one of the provinces. The annals of the others are almost equally full of curious matter.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

Janet, or Glances at Human Nature, by the author of 'Misrepresentation.'—It is with pleasure that we congratulate the authoress of a work, injudiciously puffed in the advertisements as rivalling Miss Austen's domestic tales, on having produced a second novel, far better deserving of success than its predecessor. 'Misrepresentation' was somewhat insipid; 'Janet' contains passages of feeling and sparkles of humour, subdued in tone, but still true to life; and we have read it without weariness, and, what is rarer, without any very distinct anticipation of the catastrophe. This may arise, it is true, as much from the defects as the merits of the story, which, while it professes to be "the second of a series of traits on the passions," devoted to the workings of Envy, only treats that passion episodically; for Janet's evil-doings are far less essential to the interest of the novel, than the sweet forbearance of her half-sister Georgiana, or the gradual progress the latter makes in reclaiming her egotistic fashionable husband, Percival d'Esterre. Even the sturdy, good-humoured old-maidishness of Miss Rocket, and the thoroughgoing absurdities of her sandy-haired niece, Belinda, are more distinctly made out, than the motives or manners of the principal actress, the aforesaid Janet. The tale, then, is merely a common-place and not very coherent narrative of a poor officer's daughter, who makes a splendid match, and from that time becomes an object of "envy, hatred, malice, and all uncharitableness." But as the authoress (for we assume the work to proceed from a female pen) possesses powers of observation, which time may develope to fuller keenness and force—it is worth while to counsel her in any future work, to think as much of the plot as of the passion she has to display. The humours she has picked up in the course of her experience, will show all the more quaintly from being grouped with a sufficient (not a mechanical) attention to contrast, and a progressive action.

Our hint, here thrown out, does not indeed apply,

with the fulness of reproach, to the next three vowith the rumess of reproach, to the next three values under notice, Legend and Romance, African and European, by Richard Johns,—but neither is it wholly inapplicable to them, for in this series of tales, with much striking and singular material, but little effect is produced. The first legend turns on the disastrous expedition and unexplained disappearance of 'Sebastian of Portugal.' Though entirely different in its machinery and in the tone of its colouring, which is gay rather than solid,—this novel may rank with Miss Porter's romance on the same striking his-torical passage. To accredit his legend, the author has interwoven Camoens with its thread, but awk-

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authoress—Mrs. Lee, whose clever African tales were written with an intimate knowledge of the life and scenery of 'The White Mun's Grave.' But the heroines, both in her stories and the one under notice, are too remote from our sympathies to excite in us any very stirring interest. 'Attah,' and the following tale 'The Recluse of Fernando Po,' would, however, have figured well in an Annual. The other legends are, one of a Cornish maiden married to a smuggler, wound up with a melo-dramatic contempt of the probabilities, which is almost sublime,—another, 'The Cape of Storns'—a story of mystery and remorse, in which the tradition of Vanderdecken's 'Flying Duichman' is put to a use somewhat new,—and 'Vata,' a Drudical legend, from which we honestly confess ourselves to have been repelled by the antique conjectural names and manners described. We do not remember any one who has made the Druids palatable since the days of Gray, unless it be a far different genius,—the composer of 'Norma!' To part from Lieut, Johns in good-will, these tales afford specinens of descriptive powers, which would make us anticipate clever and graphic things from a journal of real travel bearing his name.

A Popular Treatise on Medical Philosophy; or an Exposition of Quackery, &c. by Caleb Ticknor, M.D., &c.—It is not long ago since we read in the papers an estimate of the weekly quantity of Morison's pills, consumed in some of the principal cities of the United States, which was calculated by the bushel: Doctor Ticknor's volume might be a commentary on that text. Its object, he informs us, "is to overthrow quackery in medicine by exposing its errors, and its unjust claims upon the community for support:" need we tell him that he will not succeed? Does he even expect that one box of pills the less, will cross the "deep Atlantic" for his writing? Overthrow quackery!-run a railroad to the moon, catch the Phantom Ship,—or "hold a fire in the hand, by thinking of the frosty Caucasus." Quackery is in the blood, the bones, the marrow of our civiliza tion, if not of our nature. But were the deed achievable, the Doctor starts upon a wrong notion, only way to eradicate error," he thinks, "is to plant the germ of truth." Plant truth! plant a cabbage ; the employment will be quite as profitable. If the Doctor be tired of any one particular error, or if he finds it standing in his way to fortune, let him set up another, equally well conditioned, against it—let him run an opposition coach, and there may be some chance of attaining his end; but as for a germ of truth, why the very children of our generation know The volume before us gives a rapid summary of physiological facts, which may save the public, if it pleases, from the consequences of gross ignorance; and these are interspersed with some pleasant and profitable anecdotes of quacks and quackery. We have so little of the Doctor's trusting faith in the efficacy of exposure, that we abjure the slightest intention of following his example, and attempting to persuade man, woman, or child, from taking any quantity of nastiness, poisonous or otherwise, according to their good pleasure. We hope, therefore, to stand excused for quoting a solitary anecdote concerning a "righte pleasaunte history and mysterie" of a quack, and the unfailing efficacy of his medicine.- "An empiric of the first water, not many years ago, had made himself famous for the cure of all human maladies, by the administration of peculiarly large pills of his own invention. What contributed not a little to the increase and spread of his reputation was the fact, that he used frequently to tell his patients, that, from their symptoms, he was confident some particular substances were lodged in a portion of the alimentary canal. At one time he would tell a patient that he had apple seeds retained in his bowels; and again he would tell another, that he had kernels of different fruits, and grains, in his stomach, and if by questioning gentlemen he could abcertain that they were fond of shooting, it was not seldom that he attributed their complaints to having accidently swallowed a few shot. As nothing could so conclusively prove his prognostics correct, as the simple fact of finding the articles named, so the old gentleman's character for wisdom and skill became more and more firmly established; for the identical causes of mischief were invariably discovered after taking a dose of the 'big pills.' At length, a lady of the first respectability, having suffered a long time

from deranged digestion, applied to the celebrated doctor for assistance. After a few questions, he told her very promptly that he understood her complaint, knew what ailed her, and more than all that, her doctor was a fool, and assured her that his big pills would effect a cure. Neither of these assertions she exactly credited, but nevertheless, concluded to try his remedy if he would make known to her the complaint. 'Why,' says he, 'you have got lemon seeds in you—you must take some of my big pills and get rid of them, and you'll be perfectly well again. 'Why, Doctor,' said the lady in amazement, 'I have not eaten a lemon for six years; and what you say is altogether impossible.' 'No matter, madam, if you have not eaten a lemon for twenty years, the fact is just as I tell you, and if you will take the pills you can be satisfied of it.' The pills were taken, and to the utter astonishment of the patient, the lemon seeds were found; a second dose was taken, and still more seeds made their appearance. A thought now flashed upon the lady's mind. One pill was yet left, which she examined, and behold! a lemon seed in its centre_the secret, truly, of the Doctor's astonishing wisdom, and successful practice.

Heads of the People, taken off by Quizfizzz, No. 1

to 3.—This is one among the very few of the num-berless periodicals, which every passing month calls into existence, that has a distinctive character, and is likely and deserves to be successful. The pencil of Quizfizzz is so true to nature, that every portrait is familiar to us at once; 'The Spoilt Child,' for example, in the last number, is the type of all the restless, crying, craving, "dear little darlings;" 'The Beadle' will be recognized and known in every parish, and 'The Linen Draper's Assistant' is true to the very life. The accompanying pen-and-ink sketches are hardly inferior to those of the pencilbut here we may justify our commendation by sample, and shall therefore give a few passages from the description of 'The Linen Draper's Assistant: '-" It is the prime duty of the linen-draper's shopman to make wants for his centle customers; his one question succeeding inevitably the sale of an article-'Nothing ' Nothing else?' This sinister interrogative, this mischievous Puck, waylays men in their private walks; comes to them day-dreaming a-bed; infests the hearth; nay, goes with them to the Exchange, and has been known to possess very respectable people, supposed, at the time, to be giving all their hearts and ears in their family pew, to a touching sermon on 'The Vanity of Human Wishes.' Nothing else? Captain Brace had made a very handsome fortune in the South Seas ;-the whales had taken to him kindly ;-and he came home, bought house and land in Devonshire, grew his own corn, and killed his own mutton. Who so happy as Captain Brace? his own mutton. What 'nothing else?' inquired the imp, one day meeting the captain in a pensive mood...' Nothing meeting the captain in a pensive mood. else?' The query sufficed. The captain immediately set his heart upon a coach and house in town: he kissed his wife, hugged his children, took ship for 'only another voyage,'—and behold! coming home, the ship went down, and the captain's bones lie buried in the Goodwins! 'Nothing else?' is, in matters of trade, the peculiar weapon of the linendraper. He puts the question in the most unques tionable way: he is sure there is something else; he knows the wants, the wishes of the fair dealer, and, with a benevolent alacrity, proceeds to unrol another article. For the time, the price is not to be thought of; every meaner consideration is utterly forgotten in the crying necessity of the customer. Silks and cambrics lie glistening 'many a rood' upon the counter, and the fascination is, nine times out of ten irresistible. 'Let no man say,' exclaims Sterne, 'I'll write a duodecimo: matter grows under our hand.' Let no lady say, 'I will buy three yards of muslin:' gowns are to be sold! We know of no race of dealers so gracious, so alert, and so unwearying, as linen-drapers. To be sure, they are every day twelve hours at school, and are taught by the prettiest teachers. Their governesses are among the loveliest of the earth; and the manners of the pupil must necessarily smack of the gentleness and forbearance of the preceptress. And yet these men (so capricious and so discontented is human nature) are at this moment clamouring for leisure—for time for self-improve-ment! What would they have? Are they not the

chosen servitors of the fair? Do they not for nine, ten, eleven hours per diem, only six days out of the week, live in the very atmosphere of beauty? What have they to do but to take down and put by; to smile, to speak softly, to protest; and, for the ber of the 'concern,' to tell a lie with the grace of perfect gentlemen? 'My friends and fellow-sufferers,' said one of these men at a recent public meeting, some-where convened, to consider the rights and wrongs of the shopmen :- 'Friends and fellow-sufferers! the Linen-Draper's Assistant is little better than a hedgehog [Hear!]: for twelve hours a-day he has little more to do than to unrol, and then to roll himself up more to do than to third, and then to himself up again! [Cheers!] Still, there are bright minutes in the long day of the Linen-Draper's Assistant;— minutes of half-confidence with shopping beauty, coveted in vain by other dealers; and the address. the delicacy displayed by him on these occasions, test him as the master of his craft. There are certain questions which he hazards with a self-deprecating look, as though he were 'dallying with an interdicted It is, as we have observed, the lines draper's province to suggest the want of things, the very existence of which is not to be merely doubted, but to be utterly unknown to mankind at large. We see the shopman bow and smile, and roll out, and roll out, and roll out! The lady purchases; and, it may be, the necessity of the purchase—the evil that makes it indispensable—is, for a time, wholly forgotten in the loveliness of the article bought. 'Nothing else?' asks the shopman; and other trifles are rolled out—measured—cut. At length, the Assistant assumes his delicate privilege; and having suggested all the known and palpable common-places of dress, stops, smiles, and, with his palms upon the counter, and his eyes half-abashed, half-closed, lets two words escape flutteringly—'Any flannel?' And yet these are the men who wish the condition ameliorated! Men licensed to put querie such as these to the best beauty of the earth aforesaid beauty taking the interrogative with the sweetest possible grace, and thus granting indulgence for new inquiries? 'Any flannel!' But we cannot we may not pause to philosophize on the question: we leave it in its suggestive simplicity to the imagination of our readers.

A Catalogue of London Periodicals,—contains the price, time of publication &c., of all the London periodicals; to which is added a list of current Law Reports. It will be found useful, we think, by country booksellers.

List of New Books.—Lord Brougham's Illustrations of Paley's Natural Theology, 2 vols. post 8vo. 18s. cl.—Dog-las on the Philosophy of the Mind, 8vo. 9s. cl.—Reports of the Meeting of the Christian Knowledge Society, by G. R. Clarke, 8vo. 6s. cl. - Murchison's Silurian System 2 vols. 4to. 8l. 8s. swd.-M' Laren's Geology of Fife at Lothians, 12mo, 7s. 6d. cl.-Mitchell's Three Expe Lothians, 12mo, 7s. 6d. cl.—Mitchell's Three Expeditions into Soath Australia, 2 vols. 8vo. 1nd edit. 49s. cl.—Persival's Sermons at the Chapel Royal, 8vo. 10s. 6d. bds.—Turner's Memoirs of Miss S. Broster, crown 8vo. 3s.cl.—Mausd's Botanic Garden, Vol. VII. large paper 37t., small 25s. bds.—Moseley on Nervous or Mental Complaints, 2nd edit. 8vo. 5s. cl.—Cousnirs Philosophical Essays, 12mo. 2s. swd.—Turner Court of the Court of th Deluge, a Drama, by J. E. Reade, 8vo. 8s. 6d. cl.-Clarton's Hints to Mechanics on Self-Education, fc. 4s. cl.— Sir John Barrow's Life of Lord Anson, Svo. 14s. cl.—Robert son's Francia's Reign of Terror, post 8vo. 10s. 6d. cl.-A Portrait of Geology, 12mo. 7s. cl.—The Economy of Vegs tation, 12mo. 6s. cl.—Hutchinson's Plain Discourses, 8v 10s. 6d. bds .- Matthews's Emigration Fields, post 8vo. 3s. cl.-Forbes's History of Upper and Lower 14s. cl.—Jones's True Christian, 4th edit. fc. 3s. 6d. cl. Story's Commentaries on the Law of Bailments, edited J. Charnock, 8vo. 14s. bds .- Prior's Life of Burke, new edit. 8vo. 14s. cl.—The Little Book of Knowledge, square, 3s. 6d. hf-bd.—Wallace's Universal Calculator's Pocket Guide, 32mo. 1s. 6d. cl.—Legend and Romance, by Lieut Johns, 3 vois. post 8vo. 24v. bds.—Statistics of the Colonies of the British Empire, by M. Martin, royal 8vo. 2l. 2s. d. —Butler's Hand-Book for Australian Emigrants, 18mo. 2s. 6d. cl.-Life of Mansie Wauch, illustrated by G. 2s. 6d. cl.—Life of Mansie Wauch, illustrated by G. Crus-shank, fc. 8s. cl.—Lights and Shadows of Scottish Life, fc. 6s. cl.—The English School of Painting and Sculpture, 4 vols. 3l. 12s. cl.—Victoria, new edit. 18mo. 3s. 6d. silk.— Whitfield's Questions on the Gospels, 12mo. 1s. swd.— Mackintosh's Key to Geology, 8vo. 6d. "Do yo My friet The Eng While w Her hea To touc "Do yo

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L. E. L.'S LAST QUESTION.

BY ELIZABETH B. BARRETT.

"Do you think of me as I think of you, My friends, my friends?" She said it from the sea, The English minstrel in her minstrelsy... While under brighter skies than erst she knew, Her heart grew dark, and gropëd as the blind, To touch, across the waves, friends left behind. "Do you think of me as I think of you?"

It seemed not much to ask_as I of you_ We all do ask the same_no eyelids cover Within the meekest eyes that question over— And little in this world the loving do, But sit (among the rocks?) and listen for The echo of their own love evermore— Do you think of me as I think of you?

Love-learned, she had sung of only love— And as a child asleep (with weary head Dropped on the fairy-book he lately read), Whatever household noises round him move, Hears in his dream some elfin turbulence— Even so, suggestive to her inward sense, All sounds of life assumed one tune of love.

And when the glory of her dream withdrew,
When knightly gestes and courtly pageantries
Were broken in her visionary eyes
By tears, the solemn seas attested true—
Forgetting that sweet lute beside her hand,
She asked not "Do you praise me, O my land,"
But, "Think ye of me, friends, as I of you?"

True heart to love, that pourëd many a year Love's oracles for England, smooth and well,— Would God, thou hadst an inward oracle In that lone moment, to confirm thee dear ! For when thy questioned friends in agony
Made passionate response, "We think of thee,"
Thy place was in the dust—too deep to hear!

Could she not wait to catch the answering breath?-Was she content with that drear ocean's sound, Dashing his mocking infinite around The craver of a little love ?-beneath Those stars, content—where last her song had gone? They, mute and cold in radiant life, as soon Their singer was to be, in darksome death!

Bring your vain answers—cry, "We think of thee!" How think ye of her?—in the long ago Delights!—or crowned by new bays?—not so— None smile, and none are crowned where lyeth she-With all her visions unfulfilled, save one, Her childhood's, of the palm-trees in the sun-And lo!_their shadow on her sepulchre!

Do you think of me as I think of you?— O friends, O kindred, O dear brotherhood Of the whole world—what are we that we should For covenants of long affection sue?—.
Why press so near each other, when the touch
Is barred by graves? Not much, and yet too much,
This, "Think upon me as I think of you."

But, while on mortal lips I shape anew A sigh to mortal issues, verily Above th' unshaken stars that see us die, A vocal pathos rolls—and he who drew All life from dust, and for all, tasted death, By death, and life, and love appealing, saith, Do you think of me as 1 think of you?

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

Paris, 16th January.

ing a discovery.

So universal an interest was excited here by the paper read by M. Arago, before the Académie des Sciences, at their session of the 7th of January, that range, at their session of the 7th of January, that called on M. Daguerre, to possess myself, as far as rap permissible, of the facts of his very remarkable discovery, and to add to a report of what has been mid on the subject, a few details of what I had

The long researches made by M. Daguerre, to produce the wonderful effects of light and shadow which be exhibits in his dioramas, have ended in his pre-

sent invention. Briefly to explain it: it enables him to combine with the camera obscura an engraving power—that is, by an apparatus, at once to receive a reflection of the scene without, and to fix its forms and tints indelibly on metal in chiavoscuro—the rays of the sun standing in the stead of burin, or, rather, of acid—for the copies thus produced nearly rather, of acid—nor the copies thus produced nearly resemble aquatinta engravings exquisitely toned. The invention is not wholly without its antecedent traces; as M. Arago stated in his report, "It is im-possible not to observe how many chemical products undergo remarkable modifications under the influence undergo remarkable modifications under the influence of light. There is even a gas capable of remaining for ever in darkness, without giving any sensible token of its presence, but which explodes immediately on the approach of a single ray of light. Other bodies, again, undergo modifications of colour." It has been from study and combination of these phenomena, doubtless, that M. Daguerre has drawn the principle which enables him to work out results as a supprising and so important to the world the principle which channes him to work out re-sults so surprising and so important to the world of artists as well as of scientific men. Of course, I can as yet give you no precise details, as M. Da guerre naturally objects to impart them to any one, till he has received some definite answer from the till he has received some definite answer from the Government, with whom he is in treaty for the sale of his secret—the value fixed upon it, I believe, being three hundred thousand francs. I should add, that the discovery is authenticated past the power of question, by the testimonies of such men as Biot, Von Humboldt, and the reporter (M. Arago) whom I have quoted.

It is necessary to see the works produced by the newly-invented machine, which is to be called the newly-invented machine, which is to be called the Daguerotype, fully to appreciate the curiosity of the invention. M. Daguerre, who took every pains to satisfy and inform me, so far as was possible, men-tioned the years which it had cost him to perfect the invention. The earlier sketches (or rather reflections) which he made some four years since, have a slight haziness: this defect he has now en-tirally express. Some of his last works have the tirely overcome. Some of his last works have the force of Rembrandt's etchings. He has taken them in all weathers—I may say at all hours—for he showed me a sketch of Notre Dame made in a pouring rain, (the time occupied by the process being lengthened under such unfavourable circumstances,) and a sketch procured by the moon's light, which required twenty minutes for its completion. As might be suspected, the invention, comparatively speaking, fails where moving objects are concerned. "The foliage of trees," once again to quote M. Arago, "from its always being more or less agitated by the air, is often but imperfectly represented. In one of the views a horse is faithfully given, save the head, which he never ceased moving—in another a decrotteur, all but the arms, which were never still." But that there are exceptions, I can testify. In one view of the Boulevard du Temple, taken from M. Daguerre's own residence, a coach and horses are introduced with the most literal still lies of the state of the own residence, a coach and horses are introduced with the most literal and lineal exactness. The subjects which struck me most were, a View on ope of the Quais, a View of the Louvre, and those of Notre Dame. The invention, it is obvious, will be chiefly applicable to still life—that is, to architectural subjects, &c. The reporter to the Académie, however, after pointing out the immense advantage of such a process to travelless, whom it capable under the most. process to travellers, whom it enables under the most perilous circumstances of position or temperature, to obtain a fac-simile of any desired scene or monument of antiquity—objects to the invention, that there is still wanting to its results something to be given by the hand and eye of the artist, and hints that the mechanical exactness of M. Daguerre's views may become monotonous. Of course this want exists: but the fault lies not with the machine, but with those who expect from it that which human taste and genius alone can accomplish. M. Daguerre describes the process as very simple, and completely attainable the process as very simple, and completely attainable by any person of common judgment, and with reasonable care. The machine, too, is so little cumbrous, that he says he has stood upon the bridges to use it, and been hardly noticed by the passers by. He intends to admit the public to see his sketches in the course of a fortnight—when, perhaps, I may have something more to tell you of so curious and interesting a discourse of the same and the

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

Announcements of new works come forth grudgingly, and new works themselves are not to be had either for love or money. To us personally, the quiet of this our little London world, and the consequent freedom it allows, are rather welcome than otherwise. Accustomed as we are to beat far-a-field for books and Accustomed as we are to beat far-a-field for books as subjects of interest, we have often more important matters to discuss than mere ephemeral literature, though the importunity of the latter will neither yield precedence nor tolerate delay; and we are glad to avail ourselves of these pauses in publishing, to turn our researches to profitable use, and bring such works as Ermann's, Bancroft's, &c., under the consideration of our readers. Since our last report Mr. Murray's list has appeared, but the promise is not great of the coming harvest—among the more interesting are, 'Goethe's Theory of Colours,' translated from the German, by Charles Lock Eastlake, R.A.

- 'Domestic Scenes in Russia; in a Series of Letters — Domestic Scenes in Russia; in a Series of Letters describing a Year's Residence in that Country, chiefly in the Interior, by the Rev. R. L. Venables, M.A.— 'The History of Christianity, from the Birt's of Christ to the Extinction of Paganism in the Roman Empire;' and 'The Life of Gibbon, with Selections from his Miscellaneous Works,' both by the Rev. H. H. Milman.

The British and Foreign Quarterly for January is rather a good, than a strong number. It contains some useful articles, conveying information of a description which the public may be supposed to require; but it has none, that stand out from the rest remarkable for superior intelligence, or brilliant execution. We would instance, in illustration, the papers on the Austrian Commercial Treaty, and on the Relations of the East India Company with the the Relations of the East India Company with the Native Princes. That on the Irish Railway Commis-Native Princes. That on the Irish Railway Commis-sioners' Report, would merit the same praise, if the subject were not somewhat threadbare. The fate of this Report affords a valuable example to those timid persons who shrink from the rough handling of in-terested or party criticism. The world is not so "tenderly led by the nose" as satirists would flatter themselves; and in the end, it rarely fails to acknow-ledge merit whences it exists however much it may ledge merit wherever it exists, however much it may have been obscured by cavil and calumny. It is not, indeed, every day that merit is assailed of so high an order, or of so tangible a nature, as that of the Report; but then, on the other hand, it is not the Report; but then, on the other hand, it is not every day that the onslaught is so impetuous, or so persevering. Thin-skinned authors may depend upon it, that even party journalists know what they are about, and do not waste their powder and shot on small game: so that a virulent attack from a political partisan is a real order of merit; and the public so understand it. We are not among those who believe that criticis ever literally kill authors, but it is no less true that criticism executed in a ruffianly spirit, may inflict torture upon the unworldly and the recluse, that is, on those who generally the least merit it, even at the hands of an enemy; but we hope and believe that a growing sense of the inutility of abuse, will render the occasions for applying our text more and more rare. The light and amusing articles in the British and Foreign, are the "show up" of Lord Londonderry's and Tietz's books on Russia, and the paper on Mrs. Jamieson's 'Winter Studies.' The one solitary production of a purely literary character, is Viardot's Language and Literature of the Moriscos.

The greatest stir recently made in foreign thesevery day that the onslaught is so impetuous, or so

is Viardot's Language and Literature of the Moriscos.

The greatest stir recently made in foreign theatricals has been caused by the production of La Gitana, at St. Petersburgh—a ballet, which, in the splendour of its properties, embraces a whole menagerie exhibited at the Frankfort fair, rivalling the neverto-be-forgotten 'Berenice'; the pageant of which opera, merely catalogued, occupies a closely printed page of musical history. Taglioni was the heroine; and the crowd so immense, that two gentlemen were crushed to death at the entrance of the Opera House the same hellet is shortly to be produced at Paris. crushed to death at the entrance of the Opera House—the same ballet is shortly to be produced at Paris. While talking of Russia, we may add, that Thalberg is on his way thither. We have been told so much of the promise of Lachner as a composer, that the announcement of an opera by him, to be founded on Sir E. L. Bulwer's 'Last Days of Pompeii,' has great interest: all his instrumental music, however, which we have heard, has disappointed us. The recent very curious benefaction of Paganini to Berlioz, which

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has been going the round of all the papers, has drawn some attention to his 'Benevenuto Cellini.' composer's enthusiastic friends are now beginning to raise their voices, and, encouraged by Paganini's compliment to Berlioz as the new Beethoven, remind the incredulous that 'Fidelio' itself was not successful on its first representation. We are always ready to be convinced, and to admire; but when we hear that scores of Berlioz require fifteen flutes, and six pair of drums, (and these, we are told, are called for by a Mass recently sent over to our Academy of Music, for performance), we cannot but also remember, that, in Beethoven's largest works, there is no need of these extravagant means, to produce effects the most colossal and imposing! An opera, by M. Mainzer—the master of the popular singing classes and an intelligent critic—is said to be in preparation at La Renaissance, Meverbeer, too, is in Paris, busily, but, as usual, most secretly at work on 'The Pintos,' an opera commenced by Weber, which his friend is finishing for the Opéra Comique; and on 'Charles le Téméraire,' a grand five-act production for the Académie.

At home it has been announced in the daily papers that Mr. Macready was about to relinquish the les ship of Covent Garden Theatre at the close of the season,-to be succeeded by a gentleman who intended to devote it to musical performances, on the plan of the Académie Royale aforesaid. If true, this would be comfortless news—a change from what is certain and substantial in its good, to what is visionary and impossible; but though false, it is worth while, for the sake of the principle, to make a remark or two on the fallacy of such a scheme: to ask whether any manager could muster, during Italian Opera-tide, and with the co-existence of Drury Lane, an orchestra one tithe as precise (to say nothing of powerful) as that directed by Habeneck !--or conjure up at will native prima donnas who can sing good music as well as acttenors who can sing at all !- or a chorus which pos sesses any subordinate activity, any ideas whatso beyond that of standing in a half-moon on the stage and bawling out of tune; or (the corps being granted for argument's sake,) a body of artists willing to abide the drudgery of a hundred rehearsals for the sake of the excellence of coherence and high finish of the whole when produced :- as if there was a hope of composers starting up, who could approach—'Robert' and 'Guillaume Tell,'—or of a public who would be contented with three new pieces in the course of a twelvemonth! no intention of being severe on English musicians, but would only desire those who would avoid delusion on the subject, and thus not abandon all reasonable chance of progress, to advert to the current performance of 'Guillaume Tell' at Drury Lane, not for the bit-by-bit comparison of Allen with Duprez or Nourrit, or Miss Romer with Cinti Damoreau, but to parallel the whole, as a whole, with the opera now running its tenth season in Paris. The result is inevitable—a conviction that in all the essentials for the well-being of the lyric drama, we are fifty years behind the French: a truth not flattering, indeed, but necessary to be spoken.—Mr. Barnett's new opera, 'Farinelli,' is said to be in rehearsal at

Drury Lane.

We have great pleasure in recommending to the good graces of all who wish to see music popularized, the shilling concerts at the English Opera House, The band, according to our English standard, is excellent,-according to any standard, very fair. The wind instruments are firm, delicate, and certain; and the stringed ones, if less deliciously piquant than those of our French neighbours, are more free from the reproach of sluggishness than most assemblages of violins we have heard at home. Moreover, the whole orchestra is exceedingly well kept together. On the night when we heard its performance, besides quadrilles, waltzes, &c., it executed the overture Oberon with a fire and a delicacy worthy of all praise. The conductor,—Signor Negri, we believe,—is tho-roughly in earnest; and his enger, pleased face, when matters are going as they should do, cannot but have the best influence on those under his care. The audience was most numerous and attentive. The English Opera House, however, is wanting in accommodation for such a concert; and the general effect, in part owing to the abundance of male pea-jackets,

concert room as lively as the salle in the Rue Neuve

The sketchers are busily employed in bringing out lithographic fac-similes of the choicest contents of their portfolios. Prout is preparing a second volume of his gleanings from the picturesque architecture of continental cities.—Nash has been rescuing from oblivion some of the most characteristic features of the Elizabethan mansions, and peopling the deserted halls and galleries with their tenants of the olden time Mr. Vivian has issued some attractive specimens of another set of views in Spain and Portugal, litho graphed by Haghe-and Sidney Cooper has nearly completed a new series of studies of cattle, more highly finished than his former volumes. No tidings have reached us as yet of Stanfield from Sicily or Greece, or of David Roberts from Egypt; but we hear that Mr. John Lewis is safe in Rome, after escaping from a shipwreck, without loss of life or

A short time since, the French government sent M. Guillemin (one of the curators of the Jardin du Roi) to the Brazils, for the purpose of studying the mode of culture of the tea-plant, the methods of preparing the tea for market, and to collect seeds and plants, that an attempt might be made to introduce the culture into France. M. Guillemin arrived at Rio de Janeiro towards the end of October; and by letters received from him, dated the 17th of November, we learn, that he was most kindly received by the authorities and the naturalists of Brazil, who had shown every disposition to assist him in his inquiries. The cultivation of the plant, introduced into the Brazils in 1812, has, he observes, and especially since 1825, made rapid progress; and already the growers are enabled to supply a large portion of the tea required for the home market. It is extensively cultivated in Ouro-Preto, and in the province of St Paul; is extending into the province of Minas, and has been attempted on a large scale in the Botanic Garden at Rio. M. Guillemin is sanguine in his hopes of success, and, at the date of his letter, was about to proceed immediately to St. Paul.

From Germany rumours arrive, that a Mdme. Wolzagen, an intimate friend of Schiller's, is now occupied in writing his life: and that the painter Cornelius has been admitted to the Legion of Honour, by the King of the French.

By way of appendix to our report of the proceedings of the British Association, we add the following financial particulars from the recent report of the The total receipts of the Association were 4,5631. 1s. 10d.; the disembursements 4,3751. 17s. 3d. leaving a balance or 1871. 4s. 7d. Of this sum 1001. was voted towards the purchase of a valuable collection of shells, the remainder to be divided between the Literary and Philosophical Society, Natural His tory Society, Mechanics' Institute, Medical School, and the Society for the Promotion of the Fine

The papers announce the recent death, at an advanced age, of Mr. Lodge, Clarencieux King of Arms, and editor of the Historical Portrait Gallery, bearing

SCIENTIFIC AND LITERARY

ROYAL SOCIETY.

Jan. 17 .- John Forbes Royle, M.D., V.P., in the

William James Frodsham, Esq. and John Hilton, Esq. were admitted; Beriah Botfield, Esq. and Peter Hardy, Esq. were elected; and Commander Henry Mangles Denham, R.N. and Richard Drew, Esq. were proposed as Fellows of the Society.

The following papers were read :-1. 'On the state of the Interior of the Earth,' by W. Hopkins, Esq. A.M., &c. Second Memoir: 'On the Phenomena of Precession and Nutation, assum-

ing the Fluidity of the Interior of the Earth. In this memoir the author investigates the amount of the luni-solar precession and nutation, assuming the earth to consist of a solid spheroidal shell, filled For the purpose of presenting the problem under its most simple form, he first supposes the solid shell to be bounded by a determinate inner spheroidal surface, of which the ellipticity is equal to that of the outer surface: the change from the sois somewhat gloomy. In time we shall hope for a lidity of the shell to the fluidity of the included mass

being not gradual, but abrupt. He also here supboth the shell and the fluid to be homogen poses both the author then gives the statement of the problem, which he proposes to investigate; the investigation itself, which occupies the remainder of the paper, being wholly analytical, and insusceptible of abridgment. The following, however, are the results to which he is conducted by this laborious process: namely, that, on the hypothesis above stated, 1st, The precession will be the whatever be the thickness of the shell, as if the whole earth were homogeneous and solid. 2ndly, the lunar nutation will be the same as for the homogen spheroid, to such a degree of approximation that the difference would be inappreciable to observation. 3rdly, The solar nutation will be sensibly the same as for the homogeneous spheroid, unless the thick ness of the shell be very nearly of a certain value, namely, something less than one-quarter of the earth's radius; in which case this nutation might become much greater than for the solid spheroid. 4thly, In addition to the above motions of precession and nutation, the pole of the earth would have a small circular motion, depending entirely on the interns fluidity. The radius of the circle thus describe would be greatest when the thickness of the shell should be least; but the inequality thus produced would not, for the smallest thickness of the shell exceed a quantity of the same order as the polm nutation, and for any but the most inconsiders thickness of the shell, would be entirely inappreciable to observation. In his next communic the author purposes considering the case in which both the solid shell and the inclosed fluid mass are of variable density.

2. 'On the Molecular Constitution of Crystals' by M. L. A. Necker, of Geneva.

In this communication, after adverting to Hauv's theory of crystallization, in which the molecules are considered to be polyhedrons—to the views subsequently taken by Wollaston and Davy, and particular ly to Brewster's conclusions, that there ought to be different forms of molecules, some spherical some ellipti cal with two equal axes, and a third unequal to these, and others elliptical with three unequal axes,-M Necker states, that Mr. Dana is the only minerale gist who has attempted to introduce, into crystallo graphy, the consideration of molecules with curve surfaces. Although, adopting the forms proposed by Brewster, and adding to them those of oblique solid by introducing the idea of polarity in the axes of crystallization, Mr. Dana has successfully applied this molecular theory to crystallography; yet he goes no farther: and the most important and difficult steps in this branch of physical science still remain to be made, and many phenomena in crystallization, with the cause of which we are at present wholly unnequainted, still require to be explained by the theory. The author particularly refers to the important facts discovered by MM. Leblanc and Beudant, of the influence that solutions or mediums in which bodies crystallize have on the secondary forms which these bodies take: and states, that the present views of crystallography afford not even a glimpse of the least relation between such forms and the properties of the mediums. Why, he asks, does pure water appear, in general, to tend to simplify the forms, precisely as do certain mixtures, those of chlorite in axinite, quartz, felspar, &c.; and why, on the con trary, do other mediums, acid or earthy, complicate them? Impressed with the importance which must attach to the solution of such questions, M. Necker offers some ideas which long meditation on this important subject has suggested to him. Adopting the ellipsoid as the form of the molecule, he remarks, that the more complicated the form of the crystal, the more the number of its faces increases; and the more, at the same time, does it approach to the ellipsoidal form of the molecule; and, on the contrary, the simpler the form becomes, the more does it recede from that with a curved surface. All crystalline forms may be considered as making a part of one or more series, which, in each system of crys tallization, have for extreme terms, on the one side, the most simple solid of the system, or that which has the least number possible of faces; and, or the other, the solid having the greatest number-namely, a sphere or an ellipsoid. Although it is more convenient, in the calculation of forms, is

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dart from the most simple polyhedral forms, in order to arrive at the more complex, nothing proves that such has been the route which nature has that such has been the route which nature has fallowed. As long as we considered the integral molecules as polyhedral, it appeared natural to riew them as grouping in polyhedrals molecules, it then becomes most natural to suppose, that ellipsoidal molecules should have a tendency, more or less decided, to group in solids of the same form as hemselves, when no extraneous circumstances inter-pose an obstacle to this tendency. In order to give an idea of the kind of effect which would be produced on the form of the solid by these obstacles, such as the nature of the medium in which crystallization takes place, a hurried or tumultuary crystallization, &c., the author conceives that each molecule, as well as each solid formed by their union, has different ares of attraction, endued with different degrees of wesker and the most numerous round the stronger, which are, at the same time, the smallest in number; which are, at the same time, the shallest in humber, all, in short, symmetrically arranged around the principal axes of crystallization, which are the most energetic of all. Thus we shall conceive the sort of polarity by which crystallization is distinguished from molecular attraction. The effect of obstacles, such as the attraction exerted by mediums, by interposed bodies, by the molecular attraction of the molecules themselves, when they arrive both in too great numbers and too rapidly towards the same point, this effect will be the annihilation of the weaker axes, whence will follow the formation of a tangent plane to the spherical or elliptical surface. If the action to the spherical or elliptical surface. If the action of the obstacle goes on increasing, axes of attraction, which, by their intensity, had resisted the first obstacles, are destroyed by the new ones, and new tangential planes are produced, in which those that had been first formed finish, by being confounded: thus it will happen, that, by the increase of obstacles, the sarface of the solid, from being curved, has become blage of a small number of plane faces, separated by edges, and placed tangentially at the extremity of the axes whose forces have longest resisted the action of the obstacles. But, since the most energetic axes of the obstacles. But, since the most energetic axes are necessarily the least numerous, the greater the energy they possess, the number of faces which bound the solid will continually decrease, according as the obstacles increase, until at length the solid, reduced to its most simple form, no longer presents any but that constituted by the principal axes of crystallization terminating at the summittee of the solid angles. tion, terminating at the summits of the solid angles of the simple polyhedron, which axes alone have been capable of withstanding the action of all the obstacles opposed to the tendency of the molecules ossacies opposed to the tendency of the molecules to unite in the form of ellipsoid. On this hypothesis, the author explains how common salt, alum, sulphate of iron, &c., crystallize in pure water in the most simple forms, the reciprocal attraction of their molecules being controlled and diminished by the affinity exerted on them by the molecules of the water; whilst if some of these molecules of water the neutralized by mixture with another ealthle are neutralized by mixture with another soluble principle, they cease to act as an obstacle to the crystallization of the body, which then takes forms more complicated, and approaching nearer to that of the normal solid with a curved surface. M. Necker considers, that the new views he has sketched require, for their complete developement, many ulterior details, as well as many new experiments and new facts; but that the tendency which the crystals of all systems present to progress towards the curved surface form appropriate to each system, by the complication of their forms, is a fundamental fact of the first importance; and that an advance has been made, by howing the bearing of the important experiments of MM. Leblanc and Beudant, and by having brought the theory of crystallography nearer to those views which the progress of chemistry and of physics have led us to adopt, relative to the form of the elementary molecules of bodies.

Jan. 24.—Francis Baily, Esq. V.P. in the chair.—
Charles Darwin, Esq. was elected; and George Godwin, jun., Esq., F.S.A., and George Gulliver, Esq., were proposed as Fellows.
The following paper was read:

'Experiments made on a piece of Pefia Silver, Committee of Commerce and Agriculture of the Society, by the Horticultural Society of Bengal, which

of Ireland in December, 1838, as to its capability of holding Water, by W. D. Haggard, Esq. Plata Peña is silver collected by quicksilver after the ore is pounded; it is then placed in a mould, and, by great force, the quicksilver is squeezed out, when it forms a mass resembling dry mortar, of great

porosity.						
	Ib.	oz.	dwt.	Tro	V W	eight
Original weight, when taken from the box	38	-	0	Decr lb.		wt.
One day placed before the fire	37	0	15	1	9	5
Third day	35	5	0	1	7	0
Fifth day	34	5	5	0	11	15
Eighth day	. 34	0	2		5	
				-		

Weight of water.... 4 9 3

	Weight of the piece, supposed to be quite dry	34	0	2	Incr. in wt.
ı	First day from the fire	34	0	3	0 0 1
				5	0 2 2
ч	Fifth day	344	4	2	0 1 17
	Eighth day	34	4	9	0 0 7

Gained in water from the air.... 0 4 7

Weight after water had been forc- 1 lb. oz. dwt. 1b. oz. dwt. ed into it 19 10

Total weight of water contained in the piece. 5 1 17

ASIATIC SOCIETY.

Jan. 5 .- Professor Wilson in the chair.

Jan. 5.—Protessor Wilson in the chair.

The first paper read was a memoir of Dr. Rottler, sent to Professor Royle, by Mr. Malcolmson, who, as observed by Professor Royle, had the means of accurate information afforded him, by his situation as Secretary to the Madras Medical Board. Dr. Rottler died on the 24th of June, 1836, in his 87th year. He had been sixty years a missionary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, and a fellow labourer with Schwartz and Geriche. The whole of that time he had actively employed, not only in faithfully discharging the duties of his office, but also in cultivating the science of or his office, but also in cultivating the science of botany, and in the preparation of a valuable Tamul Dictionary. In these labours he had been occupied until within three or four days of his death, and in each department he has left behind him valuable results. In botany, to which Mr. Malcolmson's letter chiefly referred, Dr. Rottler was an indefatigable student; and he had made collections of great value as early as 1788, when he studied under König. He had also afforded considerable assistance to Dr. P. Russell (the author of the 'Fishes and Serpents of the Coromandel') in the formation of an Herbarium. The merits of Dr. Rottler may be estimated by the encomiums bestowed upon him by the Medical Board at that time, in their recommendation to government to put the collection of Dr. Russell under his care. They said he was the best qualified person in the country for such a duty; and that his studies and collections demanded the highest praise and encou-

collections demanded the highest praise and encouragement. Dr. Rottler's subsequent labours are known to the world through the work of Dr. Wight. A paper, by Mr. E. Solly, was then read, 'On the Preparation of Caoutchouc.' After describing the different processes now employed for the preparation of this substance, Mr. Solly stated, that in all these, the extraneous soluble matters contained in the sap were allowed to remain with the caoutchouc, and were allowed to remain with the caoutchouc, and become incorporated with it as it solidified. He con-sidered that these impurities exerted considerable influence on the strength, elasticity, and consequent value of the article; and described the kinds of caoutchoue in which these impurities were most abundant, and also those in which their deteriorating influence was the greatest. The want of perfect adhe-sion between the layers of caoutchoue which com-posed the india-rubber bottles, he attributed to the posed the india-rubber bottles, he attributed to the presence of a very thin layer of these impurities be-tween them. Mr. Solly then detailed some experiments, undertaken by him on the recent sap, with a view to ascertain in how far these impurities might be separated by any improvement in the process now employed for preparing caoutchouc, so as to give it increased strength and elasticity. He concluded with some remarks on the importation of the sap of the caoutchouc trees into this country; the probable causes of the repeated failure of almost all attempts;

accompanied a small bale of cotton, the growth of accompanied a small bale of cotton, the growth of India, from American seed, requesting the Committee would obtain the opinion of competent judges in England as to its staple and price, compared with Indian and American cottons. The letter further stated, that the culture of American cotton had not yet been established in India on an extensive scale, owing to several causes; but that their Society was still exception that he according to the second to the second seco owing to several causes, but that their society was still as aguine, that by a steady perseverance, and the example of several gentlemen of the civil and military service, who had shown its superiority, the natives would be induced to spread it extensively over all the districts favourable to the growth of indigenous

Or. Royle then read a letter from Mr. Malcolmson, 'On the Cotton grown near Pæstum, in the kingdom of Naples,' a small quantity of the seed of which he had forwarded, with a request that it should be sent to the Horticultural Society of Bengal. Mr. Malcolmson entered into details respecting the soil and climate of that part of Italy, and alluded to the remarkable petrifying stream near Pœstum, and which caused a considerable calcareous deposition on the soil which it irrigated—a mixture which had been supposed essential to the cultivation of cotton. There were two kinds of cotton cultivated in the kingdom of Naples, the best of which was grown at Castellamare. Mr. Malcolmson had procured some of the soil from one of the richest cotton fields of that place, of which he intended to forward an analysis.

Dr. Royle stated, that he had at the same time received a note from the Hon. Fox Strangways, containing an extract from a paper of Professor Tenore, on the very cotton spoken of by Mr. Malcolmson. The extract stated, that the usual cotton grown in the kingdom was the Gossypium herbaceum: but that the kingdom was the Gossypium herbaceum: but that the cotton of Castellamare, which had been cultivated from time immemorial in Calabria, was very probably the same as the American cotton described in the Orto Romano. For the cultivation of this cotton in Castellamare, they were indebted to the French, who had brought it from Calabria. Dr. Royle observed, that the cotton was most probably the Gossypium hirsutum, or Upland Georgia cotton. As a mail was to depart to India that day, he had been enabled, by the kindness of Mr. W. B. Bayley, to despatch, through the India House, the seed sent by Mr. Malcolmson, and it would reach India time enough Mr. Malcolmson, and it would reach Indiatime enough

Two papers were afterwards read, 'On the Cultivation of the Bourbon Cotton in the South of India' vation of the Bourbon Cotton in the South of India'
_the first by Mr. Hughes, of Tinnwelly, who had
grown that plant largely, and with great success,
twenty years ago; and the other by Mr. Heath, who
had followed the plan of Mr. Hughes, when Commercial Resident of Salem and Coimbatore, with
equal success. The paper of Mr. Hughes went into
minute details on the soil and climate—on the
planting, purpose, get begins and elements the cetter. minute details on the soil and climate—on the planting, pruning, gathering, and clearing the cotton—and on its value in the market. If published in full by the Society, as it probably will, this paper must furnish a very useful body of information to the cultivators of cotton. An abridgment of it was made in India by Mr. Heath, who caused it to be translated into the Tamul language, and a copy to be given to every farmer who made a trial of the seed. The to every farmer who made a trial of the seed. The experience of Mr. Heath generally agreed with that of Mr. Hughes, except that the former gentleman found he was able to grow cotton successfully at a distance of 150 miles from the sea, while Mr. Hughes found the coast to answer exclusively. Mr. Heath also found the natives more ready to adopt improvements than could have been expected from the paper of Mr. Hughes

of Mr. Hughes.

At the conclusion of this paper, it was observed by Mr. W. B. Bayley, that, so far as he understood, the manufacturers of Glasgow and the north of England considered the defects of Indian cotton generally to arise rather from want of care in gathering and cleansing, than from any deficiency of staple; and that consequently more attention should be paid to those points, than to the introduction of new plants.

The Director stated to the meeting that S.

The Director stated to the meeting, that Sir James R. Carnac, who is nominated to the governorship of Bombay, had kindly offered to promote, by any means in his power, the objects of the Royal Asiatic Society; and that the Council had in consequence resolved to prepare lists of desiderata to be furnished to him. He therefore requested that any

member of the Society who might have any suggestion to make bearing on the matters in which the aid of Sir James Carnac might be valuable to the Society, would, either now, or at an early period, communicate such suggestion to the Secretary of the Society. by whom it would be brought before the Council. In the meantime, he had no doubt the meeting would concur in a vote of thanks, which had been resolved by the Council to Sir James for his very liberal offer.

The original addresses of several native chiefs of territories in Sudan, to Major Campbell, late Lieut .-Governor of Sierra Leone, in African-Arabic, were exhibited to the meeting by Major Campbell, together with a pamphlet containing translations of the same; and thanks were returned to that gentleman for his kindness in laying these interesting documents before the Society.

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.

The following are the officers elected for the ensuing year: — President — James Walker, F.R.S. L. and E. Vice Presidents—W. Cubitt, F.R.S.; Bryan Donkin, F.R.S.; Joshua Field, F.R.S.; Bryan Donkin, F.R.S.; Joshua Field, F.R.S.; Henry R. Palmer, F.R.S. Other Members of the James Howell; Joseph Locke, F.R.S.; George Lowe, F.R.S.; John Macneill, F.R.S., M. A. Provis; Major Robe, R.E.; James Simpson; R. Stephenson.

Treasurer — W. A. Hankey. Auditors — W. Freeman; Charles Manby. Secretary — Thomas Webster, M.A.

Annual General Meeting ._ Jan. 15 ._ The President in the chair.

The Annual Report was read. Allusion was first made to the progress and success of the Institution. On the difficulties which had often been experienced in deciding as to the qualifications for admission into the class of members, the Council remark:-" It is a peculiar feature in this Institution, that the members are persons strictly engaged in the profession of the engineer. The objects of the civil engineer are defined by the charter; and the Council, considering that the success and permanency of the Institution depended in a great measure on the care which is exercised in admission into this class, have repeatedly considered this subject, with the view of senting some definite rules for the guidance of themselves and others. It has appeared to them, that they may be guided in this difficult task, by adhering as closely as possible to the two following conditions either that the party shall have been regularly educated as a civil engineer, according to the usual routine of pupillage, and have had subsequent employment for at least five years in responsible situations, as resident or otherwise, in some of the branches defined by the charter as constituting the profession of a civil engineer; or that he shall have practised on his own account in the profession of a civil engineer for five years, and have acquired considerable emi-In the earlier days of the science of the civil engineer, such a condition would have been inapplicable: then, the force of genius alone was sufficient to place the individual in that position of pro-fessional eminence which commenced with a Brindley and a Smeaton, and was, in our own time, exemplified in a Rennie and a Telford. To such, of which there are many illustrious examples still living, the second condition was considered strictly applicable."

The publication of the second volume of the Transactions was then announced, and the occasion of the delay explained. We now proceed to give the substance of the Report itself :-

" At the close of the preceding session, the Council issued a list of subjects, to adequate communications on which, they would award premiums. The following communications were received—'An elaborate and beautiful set of Drawings of the Shield at the Thames Tunnel,' from Mr. Brunel, and two sets of Drawings of Huddart's Rope Machinery, the one from Mr. Birch, the other from Mr. Dempsey. The Council, feeling this communication and the invention of the shield were entitled to a high mark of approbation, determined on presenting Mr. Brunel with a silver medal, accompanied by a suitable record of the high sense entertained of the benefits conferred by him on the practice of the civil engineer. Feeling also that the beauty of the drawings justly merited some mark of approbation, they determined

a bronze medal in testimony thereof. The commu-nications by Mr. Dempsey and Mr. Birch, on Hud-dart's Rope Machinery, likewise called for some special mark of approbation on the part of the Council. The liberality of Mr. Cotton, in throwing open to the Institution the works of the late Capt. Huddart, is fresh in the recollection of most present: with that same liberality he at once acceded to the wish of the Council to allow any person to attend and make drawings of this celebrated rope machinery for the Institution. Two young men availed themselves of this liberality, and, with great perseverance, measured and took drawings of this elaborate machinery. The Council felt, that to have attempted to distinguish betwixt the merits of these two communications would have been both difficult and invidious: they have, therefore, awarded a Telford medal in silver, accompanied by books to the value of five guineas, both to Mr. Birch and Mr. Dempsey

"On the other subjects issued at the same time. the Council have not yet received communications of adequate merit; but they have the pleasure of announcing several to have been promised. These subjects have been again announced with others as prize subjects for the present session. But though the Council received no communication in which the subject of steam was treated with the generality and comprehensiveness which they desired, they received the following on parts of this great subject, to each of which they awarded a silver medal: 'On the effective pressure of Steam in the Cornish Condensing Engine,' by Thomas Wicksteed; 'On the expansive action of Steam in the Cylinder of some of the Cornish Engines,' by W. J. Henwood; and 'On the Evaporation of Water in the Boilers of Steam

Engines, by Josiah Parkes.

The communication by Mr. Wicksteed is of great value, as containing the record of an experiment in which the water raised was actually weighed. is the second communication from Mr. Wicksteed on the same subject. The water raised was weighed and measured; the weights raised in the stamping machinery were also accurately ascertained; and a comparison instituted between the duty of the single engine in raising water, and of the doubleacting and crank engine in working stamps. communication by Mr. Henwood is remarkable for the extreme minuteness of detail with which the observations were conducted. The communication consists of two parts—the one, on the quantity of steam employed, and the mode of its distribution on the working stroke; the other, on the duty performed with a given quantity of fuel. Under first, the indicator is accurately described, and the evidence furnished by the diagram explained: under the second, is exhibited one of the most valuable pecimens of detailed observation on record. peculiar feature in the system pursued by Mr. Henwood, that he never interfered with the ordinary working of the engine: he observes with accuracy what is going on: thus his paper is a record of observation in the highest sense of the term. It is of importance for practical men to keep in mind a distinction which has been often insisted on, betwixt observation and experiment. In the former, the phenomena which are going on, are noted as they go on, the circumstances under which they occur being untouched; in the latter, the phenomena are produced, for the purpose of the experiment. The former consequently requires great care in referring effects to their proper causes; the latter, in guarding against the results being influenced by the circumstances necessary for the production of the pheno-The two are distinct-each require their respective talents: the former would lead a Newton to the law of gravitation, and guide a Smeaton in the construction of an Eddystone; the latter, a Watt and a Black to a knowledge of the properties of steam; and the two combined, a Davy to the construction of a safety lamp. In the communication of Mr. Parkes, we have an instance of both these methods combined:-he observed what was going on under particular circumstances of evaporation, and then, having altered the circumstances, recorded the results of these experiments. The researches of this author led him to push slow combustion to its utmost limits. The contents of this paper may furnish many hints on presenting the draughtsman, Mr. Pinchback, with to the practical engineer in the management of the

fires of his steam-boiler, and to the theorist, so important facts towards a theory of combusti

The Council also awarded a silver medal to the communications of Lieut. Denison 'On the Strength of American Timber, and of Mr. Bramah, On the Strength of Cast Iron. The series of experiments by Lieut. Denison was undertaken by that officer when stationed abroad, with the view of establishing some proportion betwixt the strengths of different kind of American timber, and affording a means of comparing their strength with that of European. It is peculiar feature in these experiments, that the effect of time in breaking a beam is noted, the deflection after the elastic limit is passed increasing with the time. This is noted, and the amount thereof recorded in most of these experiments. The Council cannot but regret that Lieut. Denison should have returned to this country before the very extensive series which he had contemplated, and for which he had made preparation, was complete-his intention of determining the change of strength, and the amount of shrinkage betwixt green and dry, was thus unfortunately frustrated: and they earnestly concur with him in the expression of hopes that officers and others employed in the colonies will be induced to turn their attention to this subject.

"The communication by Mr. Bramah is also a valuable addition to our knowledge. These experiments, undertaken with the view of verifying the principles assumed in the work of Tredgold on cast iron, surpass every other series in number, and in the care taken to ensure accuracy, since two similar speci mens of each beam were subjected to trial. The principles, with the view of establishing which these experiments were undertaken, are, that within the elastic limit the forces of compression and extension are equal; and that, consequently, a triangular beam, provided it be not loaded beyond that limit, will have the same amount of deflection, whether the base or apex be uppermost; and a flanged beam the same deflection, whether the flange be at the top or the bottom.

"This communication is accompanied by some observations by Mr. A. H. Renton, pointing out the agreement which subsists between the experiments and results of the formulæ of Tredgold. The Council have peculiar pleasure in pointing out the two preceding communications as of a kind on which they conceive the Telford Premiums may be worthily bestowed. The undertaking a series of observations and experiments, with the view of establishing important physical principles, and from a desire after the truth, is an object worthy of the highest appro-

bation which they can bestow.

"A silver medal has also been awarded to Mr. Green, for his communication 'On the Canal Lifts on the Grand Western Canal,' _to Mr. Harrison, for his communication 'On the Drops on the Stanhope and Tyne Railway,'—and to Josiah Richards, for his elaborate Drawing of the Rhymney Iron-works.

"The perpendicular lifts erected by Mr. Green on the Grand Western Canal involve some ingenious applications of simple principles, and present many considerations of interest to the civil engineer. principles of their construction are exceedingly simple; and the economy of construction, and saving both in time and water, gives them great advantages in certain cases, over common locks for the purposes of canal navigation. The drops on the Stanhope and Tyne Railway, for the purpose of shipping coals present another instance of simple mechanical adap tation, for useful purposes, with the lifts just spoken of. Of the drawing of the Rhymney Iron-works, by Josiah Richards, it would be difficult to speak in too high terms. It is a most elaborate drawing, exhibiting all the details of the manufacture of iron.

"The Council have also awarded a silver medal to Francis Whishaw, for his 'History of Westminster Bridge.' It would be difficult to speak in adequate terms of the labour and research of Mr. Whishaw in collecting these documents. They are principally from voluminous records in the Bridge Office; and you are also indebted to the kindness with which Mr. Swinburne furnished the author with every facility in executing his difficult task. This history of the only one of the old bridges now remaining, is interesting to the general reader, no less than to the engineer. The difficulties which presented themselves, gave rise to many ingenious contrivances, of which the intro

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adequate nishaw in incipally ice; and hich Mr. facility in the only teresting engineer. gave rise

duction of caissons is not the least remarkable. The difficulties and progress of the work are well set forth in the reports of Labelye, of which the more sons is not the least remarkable. The interesting are embodied in the communication; and the account of the work furnishes a good history of the state of that department of practical engineering a century ago. This communication, accompanied a century ago. This communication, accompanied by an atlas of eleven drawings, is one of those records which it is the object of the Institution to collect, and which, from the labour and research employed upon it, called for this mark of approbation from the Council.

"The Institution received during last session from Mr. Rendel an elaborate and beautiful set of drawings, accompanied by a suitable description of the Torpoint Floating Bridge. This interesting com-munication must be fresh in the recollection of most resent, and it would be difficult to speak in too high terms of the forethought, skill and design displayed in the construction of these bridges, and the played in the construction of these oranges, and the perfect success which has attended their establishment. It does not often happen that the same individual has the genius to invent and the good fortune to see his invention brought into general use. In this respect, Mr. Rendel has been singularly fortunate, as these bridges have been already established in several difficult and dangerous passages. It would be foreign to the present occasion to dwell more at length on this invention. The Council felt that in awarding a silver medal to Mr. Rendel, accompanied by a suitable record of the sense entertained of the benefit conferred by him on the inland communication of the country, this, the highest acknowledgment in their power to make, is most amply merited.
"A bronze medal has been awarded to Mr. Ballard

for his ice-boat, and a description of his method of breaking ice by forcing it upwards. This simple method is applicable at about one-third the labour of the ordinary ice-boat. A bronze medal has also been awarded to Thomas M. Smith, for his drawing and account of Edward's or the Pont-y-tu Prydd Bridge, in South Wales. Mr. Smith being in the neighbourm South Wates. Mr. Smith being in the neighbourhood of this bridge, availed himself of the opportunity to make accurate drawings of its curious and interesting structure. The Council would point out this as an example of the way in which every young man, by availing himself of the opportunities which his professional engagements afford, may forward the objects of the Institution; and they would earnestly impress on all young men the importance of recording their observations on every work with which they may be connected. This habit is of the greatest advantage to the individual, since only by such habitual selfimprovement can any one hope to attain to eminence in the profession.

"The Council have also awarded five guineas to Mr. Guy for his method of making perfect spheres. This great desideratum in the mechanical art has been in a great measure supplied by the ingenuity of this individual, and a simple method furnished of readily producing very accurate spheres of metal or other hard substance.

"The preceding are the communications of the last two sessions, to which the Council have awarded premiums. The Council, in awarding the premiums placed at their disposal by the munificence of your late President, have endeavoured, from the great ber of communications which have been brought before the Institution, to select such of each class as were especially deserving this mark of distinction. They trust that these premiums may act as a stimulas to many to forward to the Institution records of matters of interest to the profession, and that thus the object of the noble benefactor of the Institution will be fully realized. The Council cannot dwell on the numerous communications received during last session, of which an ample account will be found in the Minister Dr. account will be found in the Minutes of Proceedings; they cannot, however, omit to remark on the great interest of the discussions, and on the value of the record of opinions and acts which is thus obtained. They would especially refer to the discussions on the duty of steam-engines and on the explosions of steam-boilers, as having led to the collection of much valuable matter. The practice of recording the minutes of conversation is almost peculiar to your Institution, and is calculated in an especial manner to forward the interests of Practical science."

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Jan. 23.—Rev. W. Whewell, President, in the chair.

A notice by Mr. Lyell, on the occurrence of Graptolites in the slate of Galloway, was first read:

On examining some specimens of slaty sandstone, lately collected by Mr. John Carrick Moore on the shores of Loch Ryan, Mr. Lyell recognized the distinct remains of Graptolites; and as fossils are exceedingly rare in the great range of slaty sandstone and shale extending across the south of Scotland, from St. Abb's Head to Galloway, he conceives the discovery of this zoophyte, characteristic of strata more ancient than the old red sandstone, to be important. The beds containing the Graptolites are nearly vertical, and their strike is W.S.W. and

The reading of Mr. Daniel Sharpe's paper, 'On the Neighbourhood of Lisbon,' was then resumed, and concluded.

The district described in this memoir, is bounded to the north of Lisbon by a line extending from Torres Vedras, by Sobral, to Villa Franca, and to the south by the coast from Cape Espichel to St. Ubes. The formations of which it consists, are arranged by Mr. Sharpe in the following order, the local names being derived from the points where the

strata are best displayed:

Tertiary.—Upper tertiary sand—Almada beds, consisting of sands, limestones, and clays—Lower tertiary conglomerate.

Secondary, Hippurite limestone Red sandstone Espichel limestone_Slate clay and shale_San

Pedro limestone—Slate cay and snate—San Pedro limestone—Older red conglomerate. Igneous rocks.—Basalt and granite. The composition, range and extent, organic remains, mineral contents, and physical phenomena of each deposit, were described in considerable detail, but we must confine our notice to the more general observations of the author.

The tertiary strata occupy a tract, only a portion of which is comprised within the limits of Mr. Sharpe's district. In the "upper sands," which constitute nearly the whole of the area belonging to this class of formations south of the Tagus, and included within the author's range, no organic remains have been noticed, and the strata are quite horizontal, except at the edges of the basin. A mine of quick-silver was profitably worked in the lower beds at Coyna during the last century; but it was abandoned in 1801, in consequence of all the quicksilver having been extracted, which the miners were enabled to reach. The gold dust, for which the sands of the Tagus have been so long celebrated, Mr. Sharpe conceives, is also derived from the lower beds of this division of the tertiary series. The only spots where workings have been carried on regularly and to any extent, are near Adica, on the coast of the Atlantic, about ten miles south of the mouth of the Tagus.

The gold dust is obtained from sand drifted down from the cliffs, but it is only after the lapse of considerable intervals of time, that the works can be successfully pursued. The washings were carried on in the fifteenth century, until they were found to be no longer profitable; and they were renewed in 1814, and continued till 1826, when they were again abanand continued till 1826, when they were again abandoned. The "Almada beds" occupy the greater part of the tertiary district on the Lisbon side of the Tagus, and they form the cliffs on the opposite side, from Trafaria to Almada; also a zone, which ranges from St. Ubes to Palmella, and thence south-west nearly to Aldea do Meco. They are principally interesting on account of the fossils with which they bear and the official trafficient terminal transfer has not yet heary always. abound, but sufficient attention has not yet been paid to these remains to enable their being accurately compared with the fossils of other tertiary districts. The "lower conglomerate" occurs only on the Lisbon side of the Tagus, constituting an irregular band, from a little south of Alhandra to Lisbon, and skirting the limits of the Almada beds. No organic remains were noticed by the author in this deposit.

In few countries can the separation between the tertiary and secondary formations be more strongly marked than in the district around Lisbon. The

tertiary strata. "The Hippurite limestone" consists in the upper and middle parts of marls and argillaceous limestones, containing layers of flints, and in the lowest of a beautiful hard marble. It occurs, within Mr. Sharpe's tract, only on the Lisbon side of the Tagus, where it forms considerable districts, and ap-Tagus, where it forms considerable districts, and apparently underlies the greater portion of that occupied by the basalt. The most characteristic fossils, are several species of spherulites and other remains of the family of Rudista. Shells are also abundant. The Hippurite limestone is underlaid by the "red sandstone," by a thick deposit of sandstones, grits, marls, and limestones. Lignite occurs in it at several places, and occasionally in sufficient quantity to have led to unsuccessful researches for coal. A thick efflorescence of sulphur coats many of the beds, and gypsum has been worked to some extent not far from anta Anna, near the southern limits of the district, This red sandstone formation occupies the greater part of Mr. Sharpe's district to the north-west of Lisbon; and south of the Tagus, it constitutes a band from Palmella to the coast, a little north of Cape Espichel. The strata are much disturbed both north and south of the Tagus. In the sandstone strata vegetable impressions and seed-vessels are found; and in the calcareous, corals and shells, some of which the author has identified with fossils of the English secondary series. The "Espichel limestone" is composed of alternations of shale and grey limestone. It constitutes the Cape after which it is named by Mr. Sharpe, also the flat outer zone which surrounds the Cintra hills; and the miss of calcareous beds forming the Serra d'Arrabida is considered by him to be most probably of the same age. The fossils found in this formation are for the greater part casts, and are not easily separated from the matrix. They are also referable to the English secondary series. The deposit of "shale and slate clay" occurs only in the neighbourhood of Cintra, forming the middle zone surrounding those granitic hills. The uppermost and lowest divisions consist principally of shale, and the middle of indurated shale, alternating regularly, and without any appearance of disturbance, with various igneous rocks. The whole of the strata dip from the granite nucleus. The "San Pedro limestone" forms the inner zone around the Cintra hills; and near the village of San Pedro, the following series of beds is displayed:—

Dark grey compact limestone, several hundred

Grey limestone, with slight traces of crystalline

The same gradual change may be traced wherever the limestone can be seen resting upon the granite. The lines of stratification are always distinct, and the dip varies from 40° to 70° from the central nucleus. The "older red conglomerate" occurs only near St. Ubes, forming the highest ridge of the Serra de Covoens, the eastern end of the Serra de Sun Luis, and the higher parts of the Serra de Vizo. The true geological position of this rock, Mr. Sharpe could not determine, as it occurs only south of the Tagus, and in contact with no deposit anterior to the red sandstone and the Espichel limestone, but it is older than either of those formations. On concluding the description of the sedimentary deposits, the author expressed his regret at his inability to draw any accurate comparison between the Lisbon formations and those of the more northern portions of Europe. That the Hippurite limestone is the representative of the chalk, and the subjacent formations the representatives of the middle secondary series of England, he has little doubt, but he hesitates to point out definitively, to which of the oolitic rocks they ought to be assigned. The tertiary beds he considers as probably of the same age as those of Baza and Alhama, in the south of Spain, described by Brigadier Silvertop.

Igneous Rocks .- The geological position of the rocks of the latter class were disturbed and denuded before the commencement of the tertiary epoch, and a vast mass of basalt, evering an extensive district to the west and north of Lisbon, is interposed between the youngest of the secondary and the oldest of the

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nary map. The basalt varies considerably in character, and is sometimes columnar. It generally rests upon Hippurite limestone, and sometimes upon the red sandstone; but, to the west of Louvres, it cuts through those formations, and it has, apparently, thrown up the beds, lying to the south of the line of intersection. From this circumstance, Mr. Sharpe is induced to conclude, that the basalt was irrupted near Louvres. Basaltic dykes, and associated disturbances were described in the Bay of Cascaes. On the beach near Cezimbra, to the east of Cape Espichel, some masses of basalt have been intruded between the beds of sandstone, and have produced considerable distur-This is the only point south of the Tagus, at which an igneous rock was noticed by the author. Although Mr. Sharpe had innumerable opportunities of observing the junction of the basalt and the formations below it, yet he did not notice a single instance of the subjacent deposit being altered. The only point near Lisbon where granite occurs, is the well-known district of Cintra. This rock is generally a true granitic compound, but it passes, near the western end of the range of hills, into syenite. The great central mass is coarse-grained, and breaks into large irregular blocks; but, that which constitutes the outer edge of the formation, is finely grained, splits into rhombs, and might be mistaken for a sandstone. Patches of coarser granite are, however, included in the latter variety, and veins of fine-grained traverse the central masses. A detailed account was given of the disturbances which occur on the flanks of this granitic region, and effect the sedimentary deposits; but, it is impossible, without the aid of sections, to convey a clear idea of their nature. A minute description was also given of the dislocations between Palmella and Cape Espichel. The valleys near Lisbon are often lined with detritus, washed down by the rains from the neighbouring hills, but Mr. Sharpe did not observe any of those accumulations of gravel and other materials, to which the term diluvium has been generally applied. The paper concluded with some observations on the earthquake in 1755, and it was shown, that its effects were entirely confined to the surface composed of tertiary strata, not a building having been affected, which stood upon the secondary rocks or basalt.

STATISTICAL SOCIETY.

Jan. 21.—A paper was read, 'On the Value of the Numerical Method, as applied to Science, but especially to Physiology and Medicine,' by Dr. Guy, Professor of Forensic Medicine, King's College,

It opened with some general observations on the conjectural nature of medicine; and by an inquiry whether such was a necessary or an accidental condition of the art_whether it depended on difficulties inherent in the subject of study or on defects in the method of investigation; and proceeded to contrast the means employed by the physician for the investigation of truth, with others which might be resorted -in fact, the more perfect sciences, with medicine. Dr. Guy first adverted to the positive definitions which it was possible to lay down in reference to number, magnitude, and quantity, and described these as instruments of calculation which limited the work of unassisted reason. From this point, he said. began the union of reason with observation and experiment, to which we owe the mixed mathematical or exact sciences. These sciences differ in their degrees of certainty, but, as a general rule, their degree of certainty is proportioned to the extent to which they admit of the application of numbers. He then asked, and answered at some length, the question why calculation has not been more extensively employed? But these remarks on the general principles of the numerical method we must pass, and come to their application to the present subject.

"The success," Dr. Guy observed, 'with which calculation has been applied to unorganized matter, and the confidence with which the natural philosopher resorts to it on all occasions, have not failed to exercise a powerful influence on those who pursue the study of organized beings; and a growing disposition to apply calculation to the phenomena of life, is one of the characteristics of the age in which we live. Already has the application of the numerical method to the varying conditions and social relations of mankind given birth to a science of vast extent and of

unequalled interest the science of statistics. And as the greater part of the science of statistics has a more or less intimate connexion with the studies of the physician, he proceeded to point out the general principles on which the value of the numerical me-thod in its application to statistics depends. The most important and most simple application of the numerical method is to the determination of the frequency of events, without reference to the causes whether few or many, by which those events are brought about. The data on which the several kinds of insurance depend form the best examples of this application of numbers. Thus the data for the in-surance of life are derived from calculations of the deaths occurring in a given number of persons during a given period; those for the insurance of health om calculations of the number of persons taken ill during a given period, as well as of the duration of their maladies; and insurances of property from similar calculations of the casualties to which it is exposed. Another application of the numerical method in statistical researches is to the determination of the average of a number of objects which differ in their numerical value. The natural sciences furnish numerous instances of this use of numbers. The changes which take place in the temperature, density, moisture, and electric condition of the atmosphere, in the direction of the winds, in the height of the tides, and in a variety of similar phenomena, give ample scope to the employment of the numerical method. As examples in vital statistics may be mentioned the stature and weight of the body, and the developement of muscular force. In political statistics the varying prices of articles of merchandise or food. A striking illustration of the reliance which may be placed on calculations obtained from a large number of facts, is afforded by the constancy with which the same numbers are reproduced year after year by the same combination of circumstances. An excellent example of this kind is afforded by the statistics of crime. When we reflect on the great variety of circumstances under which crimes are committed, and on the various causes which influence the sentences passed on the criminals, we cannot but be struck with the reproduction, year by year, of the same average results; and we naturally infer, that however numerous and however various may be the causes to which an event owes its existence, these causes will be accurately reproduced in equal intervals of time, so long as the same circumstances exist, and provided that the number of facts observed is sufficiently great. From this general principle we may draw the corollary, that if the aggregate circumstances vary materially in of time, the numerical results will be different, and thus indicate the variations which have taken place. As a means of comparison, then, the numerical method offers us invaluable assistance in determining the permanence or variation of the causes which contribute to the production of any given event. One of the best illustrations which can be given of the value of statistics, as a means of comparison, is to be found in the bills of mortality. These prove, beyond a doubt, (and no loose observations expressed in ordinary language could do this,) that the average duration of human life is continually increasing, and that many of the most fearful causes of disease and death are gradually losing their power. They show, too, the comparative salubrity of different climates and of different modes of life, and furnish in this way most useful information to the physician and to the legislator. A very obvious and most important application of statistical investigations is as a test of the truth of theories. It often happens that an event is attributed to a cause which varies in intensity under different circumstances or in different localities, and we have no other means of testing the accuracy of our opinion than by comparing the frequency of the event in question, under the varying influence of the assumed cause; and should the same numbers be obtained in every case, we are justified in rejecting that cause. If this rule be applied to the received opinions on the subject of phthisis pulmo-nalis, we shall soon see how void of foundation they are. It has been often stated that this disease is of more frequent occurrence, and more fatal, in cold than in warm climates. The admirable Statistical Reports of Captain Tulloch entirely disprove this sertion. A single fact, quoted from this Report

will suffice to demonstrate the necessity of submit these opinions to the searching test of numb "Out of an aggregate strength of 86,661 (soldier serving in the Windward and Leeward Command not fewer than 1,023 were attacked by that fa disease, being 12 per 1,000 annually, while out of an aggregate strength of 44,611 Dragoon Guards and ons serving in Great Britain, only 286 were same remarkable disparity exists between the mo-tality from consumption in other parts of the West s and in our own country; and it is not less worthy of remark, that the black troops are still more exposed to the ravages of this disease than the Europeans themselves. It is obvious that statistical investigations alone can give us correct information on subjects such as these, and that we might have cherished the same absurd and fatal errors for centuries to come, whatever pains we might have taken to test them by common observation express common language. But the highest aim and bes achievement of statistics is the discovery of gene ral laws. I have already observed, that the more we increase the number of our observations, the more do individual peculiarities, and exceptions to the general rule, disappear: and the more certainly do the averages obtained represent the normal condition of the objects observed. These averages admit of strict comparison the one with the other, and this comparison discovers laws closely resembling in form character the laws which preside over dead matter. But though the statistical method were limited application, and of doubtful utility in all other respects, it would possess a high value as a means of insuring accuracy. Hitherto the sciences which have to do with unorganized matter, and especially the mixed mathematical sciences, have owed their superior certainty not merely to the ease with which the allowed of the application of numbers, and to the strictness of their definitions, but in a great degree to the substitution of signs and symbols for works of variable and uncertain import. Statistics have introduced the same precision into the vital sci and had they effected nothing more than the sub-stitution of figures for words, they would have established a strong claim to our approbation. Nothing can be more variable or worse defined than the mean ing of the words which have been hitherto employed by the physician in his description of disease, or i his statement of the results of the treatment he has adopted. What meaning are we to attach to such vague terms as 'sometimes,' 'occasionally,' 'generally,' 'in the majority of cases'? These terms, so These terms, as every one knows, have every possible significati and vary in their meaning with the varying disposition, and more or less sanguine character of these who use them. The 'sometimes' of the cautious is the 'often' of the sanguine, the 'always' of the empiric, and the 'never' of the sceptic; but the num bers 1, 10, 100, 1,000, have but one meaning for all mankind. If, then, for no other reason than the one now assigned, the attainment of accuracy, the numerical method ought to be employed wherever can by possibility be applied. Statistics, then, considered as a speculative science, will scarcely suffe by a comparison with the most perfect of the mixe mathematical sciences. The mean results which it obtains are almost as constant as the numerical values determined by the experiments of the natura philosopher, and the former are reproduced with almost as much certainty by a recurrence of the same circumstances as the latter are by a repetition of the same experiments. The laws, too, which statistics discover, have all the regularity and symmetry of the laws which are established by observation of experiment. For all the purposes of reasoning of comparison, therefore, the calculations of statistic may be employed with confidence; whilst the prec arising from the introduction of numbers in the place of words, forms by no means the least among advantages which it offers. Considered, on the other hand, as a practical science, statistics will bear a comparison with the most certain of the sciences of ex-periment and calculation, provided always that the mean results which have been obtained from a large collection of facts, are re-applied to facts equanumerous, or, at all events, to facts sufficient numerous to include the several numerical value which have been encountered in the original calcula-

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tion. Although the justice of the preceding observa-tions may be readily admitted, and the value of the numerical method as an instrument of discovery, a mean of comparison, and a test of the truth of theo-nes may be conceded, considerable doubts may still he may be conceued, considerable doubts may still be entertained as to the possibility of applying our swenge results to the stadies of the physician, and especially to the practice of medicine. And here the first inquiry which suggests itself is, how far do the functions of living beings, in health and disease, admit of the application of numbers? Is the numeri admit of the application of numbers? Is the numeral method as applicable to living beings as to unorganized matter? We need not hesitate to answer in the affirmative. The profession of medicine gives ample scope for the application of numbers. If we consider the health of large masses of men placed under different circumstances, and acted on by different circumstances, and acted on by different circumstances. ent influences, it is to the numerical method that we entimences, it is to the numerical method that we must look for accurate information as to the effect of these circumstances. If we would compare one human body with another in respect of stature, reight, muscular force, or the developement of its everal parts, we must also resort to the numerical method. If, again, we direct attention to the several functions performed by the human body in a state of health, we find that most of them can only be adequately described by the aid of numbers. Thus the amount of the ingesta and egesta, the quantity of me amount or the ingesta and egesta, the quantity of the several secretions, the products of the respiratory process, the frequency of the pulse and respiration—none of these can be expressed without the aid of numbers. If, from the state of the body in health, we pass to a consideration of its diseased conditions, past with the company to the contract of the cont we meet with the same necessity for the employment The prevalence of the several causes of disease in different countries, and under different circumstances, their period of incubation, the length of their course, their fatality—these, and a great number of similar instances, are, strictly speaking, numerical. Then, as to the action of remedies, and the relative advantage of different modes of treat nothing can determine these but an accurate and numerical comparison of their fatality and dura-tion under the several methods of treatment recom-mended. These are a few, and but a few, of the instances in which the numerical method is the only one from which we can hope to obtain any valuable information; but these few examples will suggest to every experienced man a thousand other cases in which the employment of this method cannot fail to lead to most important results, if numbers were in-variably substituted for words of doubtful meaning, searcely a page of any medical treatise would be without its figures. But it is quite unnecessary to accumulate instances. Yet, it may be asked, what good purpose will this substitution of figures for words accomplish? Will it enable the physician or the surgeon to treat individual cases of disease with more success, or to anticipate their results with greater confedence? In other words, does the numerical method admit of application to individual cases? It must be conceded by the most strenuous advocate of this method, that such application is limited. For it is self-evident that our averages have been themselves procured from a great number of objects differing in their numerical value: if we attempt to apply these averages to individual cases we shall encounter over again all the varieties from which our original num-bers were obtained. And it would be as absurd to attempt to determine the event of a particular case of disease by the average result of a great number of cases, as it would be to attempt to foretell the period of an individual's death by the bills of mortality, or the amount of his fortune by the average wealth of the community to which he belongs. The fallacy of such application is not more apparent in the practice of medicine than it would be in the science of meteorology. It is just as ridiculous to attempt to measure the result of a single case of disease by the application. application of an average, as it would be to foretell the quantity of rain which will fall in a given place on a given day by means of the average quantity which falls in the course of a year. There is one consideration, indeed, which renders the application of mean values to individual cases more liable to error

which shall act as a purgative in one person, shall produce the effect of a narcotic in another; and that a substance which shall cause exquisite pain to one man, shall not occasion the slightest inconvenience man, shall not occasion the signtest inconvenience to another. These and other idiosyncrasies, though of comparatively rare occurrence, will occasion greater difficulty in the application of general results to individual cases, than is encountered by the natural philosopher in his practical applications to the most uncertain of the sciences which form the subject of his study. But though the mean values admit of very limited application to individual instances, it is very initied application to individual instances, it is not so with the extreme values. These may be ap-plied with confidence and with advantage. For in-stance, supposing that a great number of observations have determined the earliest and the latest period at which a poison begins to act, any symptoms arising in a suspicious case, before or after those two points of time, may be reasonably attributed to other causes, especially if the observations which we have collected especially if the observations which we have collected are numerous; for on the number of the observations depends the value of our conclusion. Sometimes, again, we may obtain important information by a comparison of the extremes of two numerical series. Thus, in the case of the static lung-test, the smallest weight of lungs which have respired being taken, and the greatest weight of such as have breathed being noted, any number falling short of the one, or exceeding the other extreme, will give the highest probability, in the one case, that the child had not breathed, and in the other that it had; and whenever the and in the other that it had; and whenever the number ascertained in any particular case approaches either extreme, we are justified in speaking with a confidence proportioned to the closeness of the ap-proximation. The results of some observations, not yet published, on the effect of posture on the pulse, furnish an excellent example of the application of extreme numerical results to individual instances. In cases of consumption I have had occasion to observe that the greatest effect produced upon the pulse by a change from sitting to standing is less than the least effect produced by the same change on the same frequency of pulse in healthy persons. If this cir-cumstance shall prove to be common to a few other diseases with which it is possible to confound this affection of the chest, this peculiarity of the pulse will enable us to ascertain that any suspected case belongs to one of those diseases; but should it prove peculiar to phthisis, an important means of diagnosis will be

added to those we already possess."

Dr. Guy then considered the objections which have been urged against it, and after some further observations, by way of enforcing his argument, he thus concluded,—"Though the question proposed has now received a partial answer, other causes of the uncertainty of medicine remain to be noticed. What is the reason, then (exclusive of its neglect of calculation), that Medicine still remains a conjectural art? Is it because she has not yet collected facts enough? There is no science, however perfect, which can boast of possessing so vast a store. Is it that time has not yet ripened the fruits of observation and experiment? No science can boast so high an antiquity. Is it that the objects to which she devotes her attention are not important enough to stimulate the industry of her votaries? What object can be more impor-tant, what task more noble than the alleviation of suffering and the restoration of health? What strong motive to exertion can be proposed which medicine does not hold forth? Where, then, shall we seek for the causes of its uncertainty? Its practical character, the chief source of its value, is the very element of its weakness. If medicine were less exclusively a practical art it would soon become a perfect science. If the alternatives of ease or suffering, of life or death, did not depend upon the treatment which the medical did not depend upon the treatment which the medical man adopts, he would be more willing to try the efficacy of new methods of cure—if, in fact, individual cases hold a less prominent place in his thoughts, he would direct more attention to the discovery of general laws. But this practical character of our art has other disadvantages; this too exclusive attention to detached facts makes the medical man impatient to detached facts makes the medical man impatient of mean values to individual cases more liable to error is medicine than in other sciences, viz. the remarkable exceptions to general rules, which are peculiar to life and living beings. We know that the food of one man is the poison of another; that a medicine

ROYAL INSTITUTION.—The first Evening Meeting was held on Friday last, when Prof. Faraday deli-vered a lecture on the electric powers of the Gymvered a lecture on the electric powers of the Gymnotus and Silurus, and the experiments carried on at the Adelaide Gallery. As all particulars of scientific interest have heretofore appeared in this journal (see No. 574, and Royal Society, No. 583), we need only observe, that the lecture was, as usual, extremely well illustrated, and well received.

NUMISMATIC SOCIETY, Jan. 24.—A medal of the Queen, by Signor Pistrucci, a coronation medal of the Emperor Nicholas of Russia, and several coins found in the Isle of Thanet and other parts of Kent, were in the 1ste of Thanet and other parts of Ment, were presented. Amongst the latter, was a penny of Alfred, with some of the Edwards, and another, supposed to be a counterfeit struck in the reign of John. The President announced the progress of the labours of the committee appointed to examine the collec-tion of coins brought over by Lord Prudhoe from Egypt, and presented to the Society, and stated, that amongst them were several rare and almost unique coins of the Antonines. Mr. Holroyd exhibited a specimen of African money from Cordovan, and read an interesting paper on the same. A paper was read from Mr. Tudor on the light which coins throw on the history and progress of civilization.

BOTANICAL SOCIETY.—Jan. 18.—J. E. Gray, Esq., F.R.S., President, in the chair.—Mr. G. E. Dennes, F.L.S., exhibited garden specimens of Aspidium rigidum, sent to him by the Rev. W. T. Bree, from a root brought by him from Inglebro', Yorkshire, in 1815. A paper was read by Mr. Daniel Cooper, Curator, being a continuation of his 'Remarks on the Distribution of Plants in the Vicinity of London;' from which it appeared, that, of the 104 natural orders 5.36 genera, and 1452 species mentioned in orders, 536 genera, and 1452 species mentioned in Dr. Lindley's first edition of the 'Synopsis of the British Flora,' Mr. Cooper had found 82 natural orders, 351 genera, 804 species, as mentioned in the 'Flora Metropolitana'—a number, as was shown at the end of the paper, greater than recorded in any other local Flora of Great Britain, which was attributed to the great diversity of soil in the neighbourhood of the metropolis. A paper was also read, from Mr. M. J. F. Sidney, 'On the Botany of Morpeth, Northumberland.

MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.—At a late meeting of this society, a letter from Mr. George Smith, was read by the secretary. It stated that he had obtained a patent for an improved process of embalming and preserving subjects for anatomical purposes; for which M. Gannel, a French chemist, had also taken one out in Paris. It went on to detail some experiments which had been made, to show the preservative qualities of a fluid, which he believed entirely preservated the ordinary effects of believed entirely prevented the ordinary effects of putrefaction in animal bodies after death; and invited the Fellows to view the body of a man who died on the 5th and was embalmed on the 9th of November. This communication was accompanied by several specimens of birds—a large Dorking fowl, a pheasant, and a pigeon—which had been subjected to the process, and which, at the end of more than two months, were found in an extraordinary state of preservation, the flesh being perfectly soft and elastic, and not the slightest smell or taint discoverable, although no care had been taken to empty the crops of half-digested food, nor the intestines of feculent matter; nor had the birds been kept otherwise than freely exposed to the birds been kept otherwise than treely exposed to the air of a common room with a fire in it. Mr. Gregory Smith detailed the particulars of the embalmment, and invited the Fellows to inspect the body and the preserved birds. He stated that in about half an hour a great change came over the body; that parts which had been previously soft and relaxed became firm and hard, and that the whole bedy scendled way in appearance and was nearly laxed became firm and hard, and that the whole body resembled wax in appearance, and was nearly as firm: no perceptible change, he said, took place in the following three days, excepting that certain green marks on the neck and abdomen gradually disappeared. Dr. Merriman stated that he had seen the body, and expressed his satisfaction at the great effect and simplicity of the process. He said he had also examined the birds at Mr. Smith's house in John Street, and that no particular precaution had been taken in respect to temperature; but, on the contrary, they were kept hanging in a room with a

fire in it. Several other Fellows expressed their admiration at the appearance of the body, and were of opinion that the discovery deserved the immediate attention of the faculty.

	MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.
SAT.	Artists' Conversazione Seven, P.M.
Mon.	Geographical Society
Tues.	Architectural Society Eight. Institution of Civil Engineers Eight.
WED	Society of Arts b. Seven.
THUR	f Royal Society
Fat.	Botanical Society Eight. Reyal Institution

MISCELLANEA

Local Magnetic Action of the Compass in Iron Steam-Ships .- This letter is so out of date, that we have been, of necessity, obliged to abridge it as much as possible:-

"14, Cambridge Terrace, Jan. 20, 1839. "Str.,—Having been absent from London for several months, it was only on my return that I read the last part of the published proceedings of the British Association for the Advancement of Science in your journal of September 15th, wherein there appears to be a mistake in the report of a conversation which ensued after the letter of the Astrooner Royal (on the local magnetic action on the con i iron steam-ships) had been read. What I stated nother Royal (an increase and the local what I stated was, that I had made numerous experiments on board an iron steam-ship, &c., and "that Prafestor Barlows' correcting plate had not been tried." On referring to the printed record of my experiments, I find, that at the height of 53 feet above the quarter-deck of the Garry Onea iron steam-ship, the maximum deviation of the compass was 13° 10°, and at the elevation of 131 feet it was much less—indeed, less than had been observed on board some of our ships of war. But it will be tool of 133 feet it was much less—indeed, less than and oeen observed on board some of our ships of war. But it will be readily admitted, that this question on board iron steam-ships does not rest merely upon the horizontal deflection of the needle, because masses of iron or magnets, or both, may the needle, because masses of iron or magnets, or both, may be placed in certain positious, so as to cause the needle to show very little horizontal deviation, while at the same time its directive power may be greatly weakened, (and possibly the magnetism of the needle itself be affected,) so that the dip and intensity become essential elements in the question; and these changing indifferent latitudes, with the possibility of the magnetism of the needles and the vessel changing under different temperatures, renders the subject one of some complexity. Hoping sincerely that the supplies contrivance of the Astronomer Royal, for correcting the deviation of the compass on board iron steam-ships, may be found effective,

I remain, &c.,

Bulleds. Duving over late heavy search awayout the

Ballads .- During our late hasty search among the treasures of the old world, we stumbled upon one or two, which, though they did not harmonize with the humour of the moment, are worthy a corner in our Miscellaneous columns. Among these is one entitled the Winning of Cales, (Cadiz), taken in June 1596, we find a graphic description of the sacking of the city. The ballad is supposed to have been written by one who was present. The following stanzas have a look of truth about them:

Entering the houses then, of the most richest men,
For gold and treasure we searched each day;
In some places we did find, pies baking left behind,
Meat at fire roasting, and the folks all run away.

Dub a dub, dub a dub, they strike their drums;
Tantara, tantara, the Englishman comes.

Full of rich merchandize, every shop catched our eyes, Damasks and sattens, and velvets full fair, Which soldiers measured out by the length of their swords, And of the commodities had equal share.

Dub a dub. &c. * * *

When our brave general saw they delayed all,
And would not ransom the town as they said,
With their fair wainscots, their presses and bedsteads,
Their joint-stools and tables a fire we made;
And when the town burned all in a flame,
With tara, tantara, away we all came.

The 'Complaint of Conscience' is another admirable old poem; and although it does not come under the class strictly denominated ballads, yet it abounds with so many excellencies, that we cannot resist quoting it, as a fine specimen of old allegorical satire. Conscience is personified, and the poet is supposed to find him sitting under a hawthorn by a wood side, with garments ragged, and covered with mire. The poet inquires his name and the cause of his grief: he grinds his teeth, and says that his name is Conscience; that while he was young, kings and princes entertained him,—dukes, earls, and barons esteemed him; that no landlord would take a penny without consulting him; that nothing was done between poor or rich, friend or foe, without his counsel. But at length Pride, "Satan's disciple," came amongst m, and brought with him Covetousness, Lechery, and Usury; that they were well received, and wrought his downfall. That ever since he has been on the

look-out for a place, but even his very brother rejects ence thus describes his adventures

Then went I to the Court the gallants to win,
But the porter kept me out of the gate;
To Bartlemy Spitle to pray for my sin,
They bade me go pack, it was fit for my state,
Go, go, thread-bare Conscience, and seek thee a mate.
Good Lord, long preserve my king, princes, and queen,
With whom evenuore I esteemed have been.

Then went I to London, where once I did dwell,

But they bade me away, when they know my name;
For he will undo us to buy and to sell!
They bade me go pack, and away for shame;
They laughed at my rags, and they had good game:
This is old thread-bare Conscience, that dwelt with St. Peter;
But they would not admit me to be a chimney-neeeper. Not one would receive me, the Lord he doth know;-

And one wound receive me, the Lord in doubt allow,—
I having but one penny in my purse,
On an awl and some patches I did it bestow,
I thought better cobble shoes than do worse:—
Straight all the cobblers began me to curse,
And by statute would prove me a rogue, and forlorn,
And whip me out of town, to where I was born. Then did I remember, and call to my mind,

Then did I remember, and call to my mind,
The Court of Conscience, where once I did sit;
Not doubting but there I some favour should find,
For my name and the place agreed so fit;
But there of my purpose I failed every whit,
For though the judge used my name in every commission,
Yet the lawyers with their quillets would get my dismission.

Then Westminster Hall was no place for me;
Good Lord! how the lawyers began to assemble,
And fearful they were lest there I should be;
The poor silly clerks all began to tremble;
I showed them my cause, and did not dissemble; y gave me some money my charges to bear, fore me on a book I must never come there So they gave me so

Conscience next appeals to the merchants, but they disown him, bidding him remember how they banished him beyond the sea for accusing them when ever they would reap great profits. He is at length compelled to beg, and fares no better: he appeals to the squire, and tells him how his forefathers treated him in days of yore, how he was always at the letting of their farms, &c., but all is of no avail; the poor have nothing to give him; so he still sits by the solitary wood, hoping for better days.

Luminous Meteor .- The falling stars, according to the information hitherto collected, have not been so numerous this year as usual, although they have been abundant at Vienna; but on the 13th of November a brilliant meteor was seen by M. Verusmor, at Cherburg. After a cold and rainy day, a bright light tinged the clouds to the north-east; issuing from behind these clouds, a meteor appeared, as large as the full moon when she is in her zenith, which size gradually diminished. Its rotatory motion was slow in comparison with its progress across the sky; it threw out a very pale flame, and appeared like a ball filled with combustible matter, the flames of which came out at a small aperture; a long, luminous, and undulating train followed the course of the meteor, which passed to the west of Cherburg, towards Cape la Hogue, almost grazing the tops of the hills, and the rapidity of its motion equalled that of lightning. No one has been yet found who saw it fall.

Mastodon .- It will be recollected that Baron Cuvier could never trace any signs of the existence of incisors in the remains of the Mastodon angustidens. M. Lartet, however, thinks, from the comparison of several jaws of this animal which he has found at Sansan, that they possessed the lower incisors when young, but lost them in a more advanced age, when the sockets became obliterated.

Preservation of Flour.—A very strong compression of flour, in rectangular moulds, is said by M. Robineau to preserve it both from damp and from insects. The bran must not be separated from it before it is pressed. A cake of flour, thus prepared, was placed by him in a very damp cellar, from which it was taken at the end of six weeks, without any alteration. Another was put into some flour infected with insects, and after remaining there for eight days, it had acquired the unpleasant smell of the spoiled flour, which it retained for a long time, but the insects had not

Hydrophobia. An American physician is said to have discovered, that a few drops of any mineral acid, applied to the bite of a rabid animal, will prevent hydrophobia. This acid decomposes the poisonous saliva, and cannot be injurious.

G. W.-Winton -D. F. B.—S.—received. We have neither seen nor heard of the work mentioned in the letter of C. E. L.

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